

# 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Morning Service

## Trinity Sunday

Andy Haynes

### Call to Worship - Psalm 8:1&2

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies...

Our first hymn says 'the church with psalms must shout', so let us praise the Lord together as we unite to sing our first hymn.

### StF 57 – Let all the world in every corner sing

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| 1) Let all the world in every corner sing:<br>My God and King!<br>The heavens are not too high,<br>His praise may thither fly;<br>The earth is not too low,<br>His praises there may grow.<br>Let all the world in every corner sing:<br>My God and King! | 2) Let all the world in every corner sing:<br>My God and King!<br>The church with psalms must shout,<br>No door can keep them out;<br>But above all, the heart<br>Must bear the longest part.<br>Let all the world in every corner sing:<br>My God and King! |
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*George Herbert CCL No. 515642*

### Prayer of Adoration

Dear Lord God, as the psalmist so rightly says 'How majestic is Your name in all the earth!' Help us as we bow before You this morning in worship and in prayer to remember who it is we fall before in adoration and amazement. For You are creator God, the alpha and the omega, both the beginning and the end, the almighty all powerful being who holds all things in His hand. Before time began You existed, when the earth was formless and empty, You were there, Your spirit hovering over the waters speaking light into a void of darkness. As Isaiah records for us, You measured the oceans in the hollow of Your hands, You have weighed the mountains on Your scales, with whom can we compare you O God? And yet as our psalmist continues in chapter 8, 'What is man that You are mindful of him', undeserving as we are, You care for each and every one of us. And yet dear Lord, we let you down, we omit You from our plans, we let other things crowd You out of our lives and our priorities do not put You first. We do not seek to do the will of our heavenly Father each day and so we ask now, on this Trinity Sunday, that you send Your Holy Spirit to guide and to teach us the things of God, that He may reveal our sins unto us, so that we may repent and ask for forgiveness and mercy in Jesu's name. The name that is above every other name, the name on which our salvation is secured, for He came to dwell amongst us, to set us an example, to share in our joys and in our sorrows, and to face the horrors of the cross, taking our place, suffering the punishment for our sins, so that we may have life everlasting through our belief in Your greatest gift to us, the gift of Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who taught us all as we pray to say together:-

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

As Methodists we were baptised in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Appropriately for Trinity Sunday we now sing of God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

### **StF 11 – Holy, holy holy**

- 1) Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty.  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity.
- 2) Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around  
the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Falling down before thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
- 3) Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the sinful human eye thy glory  
may not see,  
Only thou art holy; There is none beside thee.  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.
- 4) Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth  
and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

*Reginald Heber CCL No. 515642*

### **Reading: John 16:7-15**

“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Just as Jesus in our reading, speaks of the Father and Himself, and the Holy Spirit, so our next hymn gives over a verse to each person of the Trinity.

### **StF 238 – Lead us heavenly Father lead us**

- 1) Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
For we have no help but thee,  
Yet possessing every blessing  
If our God our Father be.
- 2) Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us.  
All our weakness thou dost know,  
Thou didst tread this earth before us,  
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
Tempted, taunted, yet undaunted,  
Through the desert thou didst go.
- 3) Spirit of our God, descending,  
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy  
Love with every passion blending,  
Pleasure that can never cloy;  
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
Nothing can our peace destroy.

*James Edmeston CCL No. 515642*

## Sermon

I've just celebrated the Platinum Jubilee Bank holiday weekend with some of the family including my 4 year old grandson. And don't these kids ask a lot of questions?

Why is that tractor moving over there Grandad? - I don't know darling.

What are the tables over here for? - I'm not sure.

When are they serving the food? - I haven't got a clue dear.

Is it going to rain Grandad? - How do I know? The forecast keeps changing!

How did they put this big tent up? - I've no idea, I wasn't here.

Then he said 'Grandad, am I asking too many questions?'

"Of course not darling – if you don't ask questions how are you ever going to learn anything?!"

So here we are on Trinity Sunday and the first question I have to ask is 'how shall we explain that 3 people can be one?' This is a very difficult question for some people, for when it comes to faith they will quote the 10 commandments saying "I am the Lord your God – You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20 v 2 & 3). Now I'm a Grandad – are there any great Grandma's and Grandads here this morning? Well one very simple explanation puts it like this; you can be a daughter whilst at the same time you can be a mother, and it's also possible to be a Grandmother too! 3 generations in existence at the same time making this very feasible. You may even be such a person, or know someone in your family that's all 3 at the same time. A daughter, a mother, and a grandmother – but all the same - one person!

But let's turn to our Bibles, and look for further understanding of the Trinity. Genesis 1 v 1 tells us "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*" Verse 2 goes on to tell us that "... *the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*" Verse 26 says this "*Then God said 'Let us make mankind in our image'*". So right at the start we find the plural as opposed to the singular person. If we now turn to the first chapter of John's gospel we find these words:- "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God .....Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.*" This is confirmation by John, that Jesus was God.

I once heard it said that 'how did John know? Was he there at the creation of the world?' But it's the very essence of what understanding the Trinity means. If we understand the Trinity, then we understand so much more about our Bibles and the utter truth contained within them.

I get sickened to hear such thoughts as to why such and such a prophet said this and that; so called experts look at the customs of the day and what was likely to be the thoughts of such people and why they acted as they did! But these are mere earthly thoughts with earthly reasoning by some theologians who seek only human knowledge. They cannot conceive the things of God. God's prophets were led by the Holy Spirit. He gave them the words to utter. Such profound words are seen in the Psalms too! They were also written under the guidance of the Spirit of God, therefore they were not man's words.

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3 v 19 "*The wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight*". I've said it before and I'll say it again – be careful what you read! The Bible is the book of life, and whilst there are some very inspiring books on the faith, there are also some obscure ones too!

We are told in 2 Timothy 3 v 16 that "*All scripture is God-breathed*". And that is exactly how and why John knew and wrote about the 'Word' in his gospel. It's through the guidance of the Holy spirit that he had such knowledge – God's Spirit.

We've celebrated Pentecost last week – but have we understood it's significance? The early church was born through the work of the Holy Spirit. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit – 3 in one. What does the creed say?

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit .." So here we are on Trinity Sunday and the 2nd question I have to ask is 'how shall we explain that 3 people can be one?'

Well cast your mind back to the winter – easy to do cos the temperatures of late haven't been much different! Do you remember the ice forming on the garden pond? And whilst you were looking at it through your kitchen window, the kettle was boiling away ready for that cup of tea you were about to make, and the steam filled the air. Funny really, because the ice and the steam were just water in a different form. Completely different, but just the same.

I want to turn now to some words of Jesus. We find them in John's gospel, a couple of chapters before today's reading. Jesus, having told the disciples of his betrayal, is now comforting them, as He indeed does from chapter 14 right through to chapter 17 just before His arrest in chapter 18. Jesus said "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". And if we understood this, we would understand what we have as Christians that other faiths do not!

What makes me think we don't understand it? Our lack of excitement and enthusiasm for the faith. But neither did the disciples understand it – just hear what Philip says in verse 8 "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough". Now this is the bit where I think Jesus tears his hair out! My question here is this – does Jesus need the same patience with us as he had to have with these disciples? I do love them though – it makes me feel better when I get it all wrong for the kingdom! There's hope for all of us yet, when we see how the disciples fail!

So here we are on Trinity Sunday and the 3rd question I have to ask is 'how shall we explain that 3 people can be one?' The weather's been great hasn't it? We've over-corrected the global warming issue! We've gone and made it too cold! Too cold and far too wet for June. What a shame for all the outdoor activities last Sunday for the Queens celebrations – typical British weather!

And as I looked up I saw a mass of thick cloud above.

And as I looked around me I saw the raindrops falling.

And as I looked down I saw puddles around my feet.

The cloud, the rain, the puddle – all looked so very different, but all were the same. Just in differing forms, with differing roles to play.

Jesus goes on to explain (v9) "..... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. Verse 10 "Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the father is in me?". And as the hymn states, right from His birth this was the case "In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe." So to understand the Trinity is to understand the opportunity that God has provided for us in Jesus Christ his Son. For not only did He come to set us an example of how to live our lives, but he knew hardship, hunger and homelessness. He came in humility, he offered Himself as a servant, compassionate and caring, He left heavens glory and stooped to the depths of hell itself in His love for us, a love that took Him to the suffering and torment of the cross, a cross that broke the Trinity as the hymn says – the Father turned his face away – (My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?). It was our sin that caused that heartache for Jesus. That's when God gave Him over to bear our sins. How great a love is that?

And our response should be to want to know more and more of this Triune God who loves us so much, and to want to share this love with those who aren't aware of it, who don't know it exists. *"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away the advocate will not come to you, but if I go I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin, and righteousness, and judgement."* (John 16 v 7 & 8). Words of Jesus from today's reading. We cannot build the kingdom without the help that Jesus Himself explains to the disciples in this passage.

Verse 14 "He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you" We need the help of the third person of the Trinity, the one who points to and glorifies Jesus, the Jesus who longs to be our friend and who leads us to God the Father. Amen.

Our following hymn deals with God speaking through His prophets, then through Christ Jesus and the Spirit.

## StF 157 – God has spoken by his prophets

- 1) God has spoken - by his prophets,  
Spoken his unchanging word,  
Each from age to age proclaiming  
God, the one, the righteous Lord.  
'Mid the world's despair and turmoil  
One firm anchor holds us fast:  
God eternal reigns forever,  
God the first, and God the last.
- 2) God has spoken - by Christ Jesus,  
Christ, the everlasting Son,  
Brightness of the Father's glory,  
With the Father ever one;  
Spoken by the Word incarnate,  
God from God, ere time was born;  
Light from Light, to earth descending,  
Christ, revealing God to all.
- 3) God is speaking - by his Spirit,  
Speaking to our hearts again,  
In the age-long word expounding  
God's own message, now as then,  
Through the rise and fall of nations  
One sure faith yet standing fast;  
God still speaks, his word unchanging,  
God the first, and God the last.

*George Wallace Briggs © 1981 The Hymn Society CCL No. 515642*

## Prayers of Intercession

And so Lord on this Trinity Sunday, help us to appreciate a triune God, give us a clear understanding and a desire to have a closer walk with Thee, being guided by the words of Jesus when He said 'If you know me you know the Father' being led by the Holy Spirit who points us to Christ and glorifies His name that we might know Him as our personal friend and Saviour, for He came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. Therefore help us seek heavenly rewards instead of craving the things of the flesh, that the will of the Father should be fulfilled by a life in Christ, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

L: Lord in your mercy **R: Hear our prayer.**

And now Lord, we bring our troubled world before you this morning, we are concerned about the devastating effects of war in Ukraine, innocent victims whose lives are disrupted, whose homes are destroyed, whose loved ones are lost, whose future lies in ruin and whose dreams are shattered. We also think of the many refugees at this time, who have nowhere to go, who are vulnerable, lonely and fearful. Dear Lord, bless those who work hard to bring them some relief, continue to inspire compassion and generosity in the hearts of the nations of the world.

L: Lord in your mercy **R: Hear our prayer.**

We now pray for the persecuted Christians around the world. They face unbelievable treatment just because of their beliefs and faith in You, and are a great example of courage and strength to us all. And so we ask the You be near to them Lord, and help them in their suffering. May they know the power of Your Holy Spirit, reassure them of the hope they have in the gospel message of Salvation, keep them walking with Christ Jesus and ever faithful, encompass them with Your unfailing love and bring them peace we pray.

L: Lord in your mercy **R: Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting and generous God, we thank you for all that you provide for us in this our nation, we thank You for the freedom we have and ask that You help us to appreciate it and use it wisely. Help those who struggle with rising energy costs and the inflation it brings that affects us all. We pray now with these things in mind, that you will give wisdom and guidance to those who govern us, keep our economy stable and jobs safe, protect the less fortunate, bring us justice and peace that all in authority will act with integrity and loyalty to those they serve both on a national and local level.

L: Lord in your mercy **R: Hear our prayer.**

Inspire your church Lord, give her the courage to be a light for the gospel standing firm to the message of hope she should be declaring across the land. We pray for our own circuit and all who work within it to keep our churches functioning. We pray for our own individual churches, bless the work that goes on and all those who contribute enabling the many activities to take place. We give thanks for the monetary gifts received each week to cover running costs which are ever increasing, we ask that you bless both the gift and the giver so that the kingdom work may increase through both.

L: Lord in your mercy **R: Hear our prayer.**

All knowing and all loving God, we bring before You now, all those whom we love and know that are in need this day, may they feel your presence with them in their hour of need, comfort them and encourage them. Be with those who are lonely and bereaved, the infirm and the aged, the troubled and concerned, the anxious and worried, whatever they are facing may they know your love and care, place Your arms around them sending appropriate help and assistance.

L: Lord in your mercy **R: Hear our prayer. Amen.**

Our last hymn speaks of a renewal from above as the Spirit gives new life as we show the Saviours pity in what we do that the world may render praises to Christ, the Redeemer and King!

### **StF 410 – Lord your church on earth is seeking**

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| 1) Lord, your church on earth is seeking<br>Your renewal from above;<br>Teach us all the art of speaking<br>With the accent of your love.<br>We would heed your great commission:<br>Sending us to every place -<br>Preach, baptize, fulfil my mission,<br>Serve with love and share my grace.                | 3) In the streets of every city<br>Where the bruised and lonely dwell,<br>Let us show the Saviour's pity,<br>Let us of his mercy tell.<br>In all lands and with all races<br>Let us serve, and seek to bring<br>All the world to render praises,<br>Christ, to you, Redeemer, King. |
| 2) Freedom give to those in bondage,<br>Lift the burdens caused by sin.<br>Give new hope, new strength and courage,<br>Grant release from fears within:<br>Light for darkness; joy for sorrow;<br>Love for hatred; peace for strife.<br>These and countless blessings follow<br>As the Spirit gives new life. |   |

*Hugh Sherlock © Successors to Hugh Sherlock CCL No. 515642*

### **Blessing**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be yours forevermore, **Amen.**