

15th June 2025 – Morning Service

Trinity Sunday

Jill Martin

Call to Worship – Revelation 22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

StF 106 – God whose almighty word

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) God whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight,
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light! | 3) Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth your flight;
Move on the waters' face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light! |
| 2) Christ, you have come to bring
On your redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O to all humankind
Let there be light! | 4) Blessed and holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide
Let there be light! |

John Marriott

Prayer of Adoration

Our great and mighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, when we consider your majesty and the works of your hand, how insignificant we are; and yet you have given us the capacity to know that you are our creator and our Saviour, that in you we live and move and have our being. We cannot comprehend these mysteries, but we know that as we worship and adore you our lives are enriched and our desire for communion with you is quickened. Accept, our prayer of adoration, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession

Father, we confess that we do not think enough of your mighty acts of creation, of the gift of life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; of your gift of the Holy Spirit. We take so much for granted until things go wrong, even then we are reluctant to come to you, sometimes because of our lack of trust in you, or because we believe we ought to be able to sort ourselves out. We forget that you are more ready to give than we are to ask, and that your offer of pardon is always available to those who are truly sorry. Help us, through your grace, to know true repentance and the joy of your forgiveness. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reading: Psalm 8

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, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

StF 113 – O worship the King

- 1) O Worship the King, all-glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.
- 2) O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep
thunder-clouds form,
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
- 3) The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power has founded of old;
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
- 4) Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.
- 5) Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.
- 6) O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
While angels delight to hymn you above,
Your humbler creation, though feeble our praise,
With true adoration our voices we raise.

Robert Grant

Reading: John 16:12-15

‘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.’

Sermon

Years ago, before I even thought about a calling to preach, I read something like this whilst waiting in a Doctor’s reception room. I was very apprehensive and cynical. I had been told I was expecting a child, then I wasn’t and I was just confused and embarrassed because I had been congratulated and felt completely alone. It was a time when there were news items where sexual crimes were being broadcast and discussed, a time of innocence or perhaps denial.

The short story was told by a father taking his young daughter on a train journey. I don’t know where but it was for a journey which involved luggage being taken. As the two got into the carriage, the daughter took her seat and the father heaved the suitcases onto the luggage rack. During their journey they spent time in conversation and discussing what they saw as they travelled. At some point, with no obvious lead-in, the girl asked “What is a sex crimes?” The father made no attempt to answer and diverted the conversation to safer ground. As they arrived at their destination station the father made to lift down the luggage from the overhead rack. He placed both cases at their feet and told his child to take one from the train onto the platform. The child replied the case was too heavy for her to handle. The father agreed and said, “this load is for me to carry. You can’t carry this, you are not able - let me take this load for you.”

We often try to explain God’s miracles and actions Why? Jesus, the Spirit and God take the load from us, we only need to believe and trust, it is not for us to make an explanation. Interestingly the word Trinity is not in the Bible, yet is all over the Bible. Trinity is so simple if we don’t overthink and try to offer our own explanation.

In Genesis we are told *“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters”*

John’s Gospel begins *“In the beginning was the Word and the word was with God and the Word was God”* Isn’t this wonderful to know, that even before the beginning of our world of knowledge, God was present. God created a perfect world, everything needed for survival.

Matthew 28 tells us that Jesus sends out his disciples to make disciples of every nation, *“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*

As we ponder the Trinity today, various explanations are offered through sermons and articles, simple and complex. Preachers avoiding preaching on Trinity Sunday because it is too complicated, others feeling they have drawn the ‘short straw’ because they are planned to preach on Trinity Sunday. I believe in the Trinity. I can’t explain it because I am not party to God’s thoughts but I draw comfort and understanding from the Nicene Creed.

Adopted in AD 325 at the council of Nicea, a huge meeting of around 300 bishops from around the Roman Empire, called by the Roman Emperor, Constantine. As Christians were persecuted and were made to practise this new faith in secret, all sorts of different versions of Christian beliefs were cropping up, especially on issues relating to the Trinity. The Nicene Creed acted as an official declaration of key points of Christian faith. The original version of the Nicene Creed stated: ‘I believe... in the Holy Spirit which comes from the Father’, clearly making belief in the Holy Spirit an official doctrine of Christian faith. The Nicene Creed was altered at another council that took place in 381 CE in Constantinople to say ‘I believe ... in the Holy Spirit which comes from the Father and the Son’. The disagreement over whether the Holy Spirit was sent by just God the Father or, as the changed version claimed, from the Father and the Son was a big factor leading to a split in the church in 1054 CE. From this point there were two Christian Churches, the Roman Catholic Church in the West, which accepted the changed version and the Eastern Orthodox Church, who would not accept the changed version.

The Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit remains constant.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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. |
|--|--|

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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</p> |
|---|---|

Reginald Heber

Prayers of Intercession

God the Father, bless us. God the Creator, we pray for your world, brought to life by your word and your love where your children fight and kill, die of hunger and disease, oppress and exploit one another...[*Silence*]... God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we ask for new life in you.

God the Son, protect us. God the Saviour, we pray for humankind, whose joys and pains you came in love to share, and who are still in need of repentance and forgiveness, healing and comfort, faith and hope...[*Silence*]... God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we ask for new life in you.

God the Spirit, guide us. God amongst us, we pray for the Church, which you created, sustained and filled with love, asking that you will give us vision and courage, unity with one another, the strength to serve you in the world...[*Silence*]... God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we ask for new life in you. **Amen**

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.**

StF 55 – Immortal, invisible

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1) Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
 In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
 Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
 Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.</p> | <p>2) Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
 Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might
 Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
 Thy clouds which are fountains of
 goodness and love.</p> |
| <p>3) To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
 In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
 We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
 And wither and perish; but naught
 changeth thee.</p> | <p>4) Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
 Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
 All praise we would render: O help us to see
 'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.</p> |
| <p>5) Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
 In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
 Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
 Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.</p> | |

Walter Chalmers Smith

Blessing

God the father, bless us, God the Son protect us, God the Spirit, guide us, now and evermore. **Amen.**