

7th June 2020 – Morning Service

Martyn Filsak

Call to Worship – Psalm 7:17

I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness;
I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High.

StF 1 – All people that on earth do dwell

- 1) All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
Come ye before him and rejoice.
- 2) The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his folk, he doth us feed;
And for his sheep he doth us take.
- 3) O enter then his gates with praise;
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
- 4) For why, the Lord Our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.
- 5) To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From earth and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

William Kethe CCL No. 515642

Prayers of Adoration

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, you have shown us in yourself what true unity is. Forgive us for our divisions and divisiveness. Sometimes we fail to acknowledge your image in others. We may even try to remake them in our own image when we think that they should be more like us. Other times we denigrate ourselves and our unique gifts when we compare ourselves with those whose talents we admire. Holy God, you have shown us what true love is. In love you created the Universe and made human beings for relationship with you. In Jesus you show the sacrifice of true love. Forgive us for the times when we parody that love with our own self-centred actions. Mighty God, you humbled yourself and showed your commitment to us in Christ. Forgive us when our love becomes lukewarm and our efforts weak. Restore and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit so that our walk with you grows steadier and closer. We confess our faults and repent of our sins. Hear then the words of grace. Our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Reading: Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

StF 6 – Father we love you

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| 1) Father, we love you,
We worship and adore You,
Glorify Your name in all the earth.
Glorify Your name,
Glorify Your name,
Glorify Your name in all the earth. | 2) Jesus, we love you,
We worship and adore You..... |
| | 3) Spirit, we love you,
We worship and adore You..... |

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Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

And now, my friends, good-bye! Strive for perfection; listen to my appeals; agree with one another; live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with the kiss of peace. All of God's people send you their greetings. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

Reflection

It's Trinity Sunday, so maybe you are all eagerly waiting for me to explain the Holy Trinity in a logical and easily understandable way. Meanwhile, here's some music...

No. Although the notion of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is clearly set out in Scripture, neither Jesus nor any of the other writers attempt to explain it. If there are models of the Trinity that you find helpful, then all well and good. I think that the most important thing is not necessarily to understand it, but to believe and accept it, rejoice in its mystery and live out its implications. From the very first verse of Genesis the idea of God as a unity of persons is introduced. God is therefore a fellowship, and if God is a fellowship then it has implications for our church and world. This is the model of perfection that we grow towards in all our relationships. In recent acts of worship in this virtual space we have been looking at "What is Church". I find myself taking this back to a more foundational step. If Church is the people of God, then it's important that we also ask the question "Who is God?". If God is Trinity, in other words, a fellowship of persons, then what does that mean for church and society? I'm drawn to one of the Ten Commandments in which the people of the Hebrews are told not to make for themselves any graven images of anything in heaven or on the earth, in order to worship them. Having a god that people can make for themselves brings consequences. We can end up with a god who:

- thinks and behaves like us
- accepts any sort of behaviour
- shares our standards
- endorses any kind of oppression that people seek to impose on others
- does not chastise or correct
- allows us to go our own way rather than growing into maturity and joy

When society replaces the true God with a false one, there are consequences. If we as church truly understand who God is, then we will be more united and loving. We will understand that his principles of living are for our benefit. They are to keep us strong and spiritually healthy. His precepts bring joy and rejoicing, health and salvation. They keep us out of trouble and give us victory over all that opposes our wellbeing. They lead us to the spiritual maturity that results in the highest level of blessing. Psalm 8 shows us a healthy relationship with the true God, which is worked out in a healthy relationship with those around us and with the created order. Some societies worship nature. It's perhaps understandable, as they realised that the sun and rain and rivers were fundamental to their wellbeing, but true relationship with the true God gives us a fresh perspective. Nature leads us to worship the One who made it, not to worship the things themselves. When I look at wonderful things in the night sky I don't worship them, but I'm drawn to the God who placed them there so that one day I could look at them and marvel at the designer. Our relationship with the created order is one of stewardship, not exploitation of greed. We are to look after all that God has placed in our care. Paul, in the closing verses of 2 Corinthians makes a plea to the people of that church to be of one mind and live in peace. His blessing (that we use in the church today) shows us that the Trinitarian God grants us grace, love and fellowship. As we grow in grace, love and fellowship our message to the world becomes stronger. People will want to partake of the blessings of the kingdom and know the one true God. Our proclamation (fulfilling the commission in Matthew 28) becomes stronger. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

StF 392 – O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace

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| 1) O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace,
Eternal fount of love,
Inflame, we pray, our inmost
hearts
With fire from heaven above. | 2) As thou in bond of love dost
join
The Father and the Son,
So fill us all with mutual love,
And knit our hearts as one. | 3) All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory Holy Ghost to thee
While endless ages run. |
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Charles Coffin CCL No. 515642

Prayers of Intercession

Lord our God, you have shown us in yourself true goodness and unity. We thank you that in you we have assurance of eternal life and fellowship with you and all the saints. **Amen**

Loving Lord, you reconcile us to yourself and make us participants in your ministry of reconciliation and unity, through our prayers and actions. In your worldwide church, join us together in unity. In our circuit and church fellowships, may we be united in love and thought and purpose, accepting one another in diversity and growing together in you. May your love in our lives overflow in proclamation of your truth through our words and actions, that others may be drawn to your love and grace.

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

We pray for our nation and the people of the world, for integrity in society. In these times of tensions over racial justice we pray for any protests to be peaceful, and we pray for a just world and society in which all people are valued.

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

We pray for all who are in need of your strength and comfort at this time (for... specific persons and situations). We pray for those who are unwell and those who care for them. We pray for the protection of staff in the NHS and care sector who put their own health at risk to help others. Bless the work of research into vaccines and treatment of covid 19.

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

We pray for the integrity of the created order, that the Church, individuals and governments will exercise good stewardship of all that you have placed under our care. Bless those who work to research climate change, biodiversity and agriculture, so that all people may dwell in a unity of care for all that you have made to sustain us.

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

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **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.**

Offering Prayer

You gave yourself to us in Christ as he came to earth, and you have given us eternal life. We therefore recognise all that you have given us for our stewardship. We dedicate to you the resources that we have put in the care of local churches, and those that we have allocated to that purpose for when the opportunity arises to hand them over. With them we give ourselves in your service. **Amen.**

Song – Build your kingdom here

- 1) Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your Church
We need Your power - in us
- 2) We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive - this earth

- Ch) *Build Your kingdom here*
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here - we pray

- 3) Unleash Your kingdom's power
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church
We are the hope - on earth

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Blessing

May God the Holy Trinity unite us with Himself and each other. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you, now and forever. **Amen.**