

Trinity Sunday
Sunday, 12th June 2022



Dear All,

Revd Jax is away on Annual Leave this week but Alastair Barron has very kindly written about Trinity Sunday for me to send out in place of Revd Jax' regular letter.

*Revd Jax will be leading the Open-Air **Trinity Sunday Service** at **Northwood Park** at **11am**, in which the children of Sparsholt School will be taking part, and hopes to see as many as possible at the service and at the Benefice Picnic afterwards. Owing to the consistently high Covid rates this year's picnic will be a 'Bring Your Own' rather than a 'Bring and Share'.*

Trinity Sunday

Last Sunday we celebrated and wondered at Pentecost, that extraordinary moment when the disciples received the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room and when their ministry, and so in consequence (and hopefully!) our ministry, changed - individuals of faith becoming empowered to tell others the good news of God's love and the defeat of death.

Book One of Celtic Daily Prayer has the following prayer as an invocation of the Holy Spirit which I rather like:

'Most powerful Holy Spirit,
come down
upon us
and subdue us.

From heaven,
where the ordinary
is made glorious,
and glory seems
but ordinary,

bathe us
with the brilliance
of your light
like dew.

That image seems to me to capture the power of the Spirit to cover us, to shine on us, to dazzle us.

That image for Pentecost led me directly to Trinity Sunday this week and the extraordinary synergy of the Holy Spirit coming together in 3 persons in one being to form the basis of our faith – the Trinity.

In a prayer called ‘Veni Creator’, David Adam wrote about that complex relationship in this way:

‘To God the Father, who created the world;
To God the Son, who redeemed the world;
To God the Holy Spirit, who sustains the world;
Be all praise and glory, now and for ever. Amen’

These words tackle directly the impossibly difficult concept of three in one – one God, yet in three persons. There is only one God as is made clear throughout the bible, but He comes to us as one but consisting of three persons – the Hebrew word used is Elohim, a term used to describe God’s combined plurality and singularity. In the account of the Great Commission at the end of Matthew’s gospel, Jesus makes clear the co-existence, the combined importance of the three, absolutely clear:

‘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.

Go out and minister and baptise in **their** names, Jesus says

In David Adam’s words, the ‘their’ means He who made us, He who redeemed us, He who sustains us. That shift from the past tense of ‘made’ and ‘redeemed’ us to the present tense of ‘sustains’ seems critical to me. Ours is a faith of the present - we may study and celebrate scriptures written thousands of years ago, we may worship the Son of Man who lived and brought the message of God’s love to us on earth two thousand years ago but the Spirit sustains now, here, today and if one part of the Trinity is here with us today then all three parts of the Trinity are here with us today because they are one, the same – God is with us, Jesus is with us and the Holy Spirit is with us.

Be under no illusions, though, this is not simple stuff. This theology is extremely difficult but it is the reality of our faith, the reality that underpins our attempts to understand God and our relationship with him with them, perhaps?

So, for me, the time of Trinity, and Trinity Sunday in particular, is a chance to think for a moment, a chance probably to be comfortable with accepting that we don't fully understand - that that's ok.

Terry Waite wrote a poem called 'The Kingdom' which finishes with this verse:

'Be still.
Listen to the inner voice.
Learn to love.
Let compassion
Guide your actions.
Walk calmly through the mists of unknowing.
The Kingdom is yours.'

Well, at this time of Trinity, let's all pray for our walk through the mists of unknowing and for our faith in the kingdom being ours.

God Bless.

Alastair Barron



'Triune Heart of the Universe' – Stushie Art

Collect Prayer for Trinity Sunday

Holy God,
Faithful and unchanging:
Enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
And draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
That we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy spirit,
One God, now and for ever.

John 6: 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.

Schedule of Services

Now that all national Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, it is no longer necessary to book seats in our parishes for services. Neither is it mandatory for you to wear masks in church. However, Coronavirus is still very much with us. There are a number of people in our villages with it at present, so we are encouraging people to observe social distancing measures.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>12th June Trinity Sunday</i>	11am - Trinity Sunday Open-Air Benefice Service followed by BYO Benefice Picnic (Northwood Park)				
<i>19th June</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6pm - Peace & Wholeness	8am - Holy Communion (BCP)	
<i>22nd June</i>			Mid-week Holy Communion		
<i>26th June</i>	Thanksgiving Service for the Fete (in the Fete Marquee)		Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP) PLUS 6pm – Spring Meditations

<i>3rd July</i>	Morning Prayer		4pm – Café Church (<i>in the Church Room</i>)		
<i>10th July</i>			Holy Communion		Morning Prayer
<i>17th July</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6pm – Peace & Wholeness	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)	
<i>24th July</i>			Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>27th July</i>			Mid-week Holy Communion		
<i>31st July</i>		5 th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion			