

Sunday 30th May 2021 -TRINITY Sunday
Revd Nico Hilmy-Jones

We invite you to spend a few moments with God, using this short act of worship that has been prepared for you to use knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Almighty God, you are more wonderful than our lips can proclaim! When we consider the awesome works of your hands, Your love for us is more than amazing! You have trusted us with the whole of the earth and put everything we see under the care of our hands and the earth is filled with your glory! We praise you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit! AMEN.

Hymn STF 11

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!

Holy, holy, holy!

All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden
crowns around the glassy sea
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before thee,
which wert, and art,
and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy!

Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness
thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy;
there is none beside thee,
perfect in power,
in love, and purity.

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 (1783-1826)
UBP- Calamus Licence No. A-734967

Opening Prayer

and The Lord's Prayer (Jo Egré)

Almighty God, we give you all thanks and praise, for you save all those who keep the faith and bring healing and wholeness to all who seek your help. You open our eyes to your healing work. You are our refuge and strength, You shelter us with grace we can never earn.

We thank you for opening our eyes to the presence of Jesus. We thank you for the blessings you offer to us, we thank you for leading us out of darkness into the light and we thank you for showing us the way.

We confess that we are guilty of seeking our own ways, instead of yours. We confess that we are guilty of speaking without knowledge. Open our ears to hear your Word, dear Lord. Open our eyes to see you.

Turn us around and teach us to walk in your ways, once more. We ask that you heal our souls when we have done wrong, you heal our minds when we have made bad choices, and heal our hearts when we have done things for the wrong reasons

Forgive us, once again, Lord. Forgive our stubbornness, and heal our souls. All those here today, You are loved by God and in that love rests all safety, security, comfort, and hope. Rest in God's love and be at peace. We ask this in Jesus's name. 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.

Readings (Emmanuel Bossu)

Romans 5:1-5

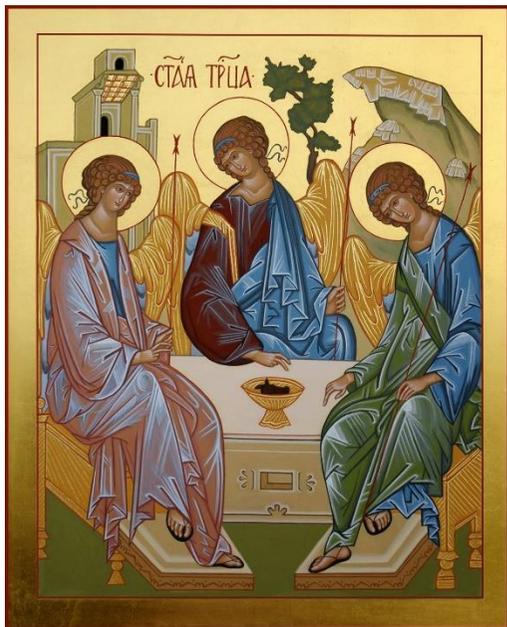
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

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.”

Message (Nico)

In the history of the church, the subject of the Holy Trinity has always been considered one of the more complicated topics. There are many ways of referring to the Trinity. Some examples include: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, or: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, or: Presence, wisdom, power, or: Womb of life, Word in flesh, Brooding spirit, or: Almighty God, Incarnate Word, Holy Comforter. Or how about this : Primordial Nature, Consequent Nature, Superjective Nature? All of these phrases have been used to refer to the Trinity. Have you ever tried to explain the Trinity? Or even to understand it? God is one and yet we've got these three, what? Persons? Spirits? Beings? Things? So what is God? Maybe God is a shape-shifter, one minute holy parent, another holy child, another holy spirit. “God in three persons,” ...or what one of my theology professor's said: “God in three hypostatic modes of being...” . What helped me was a description from an early Church Theologian Tertullian, who described the Trinity as a metaphor; God the Father as a deep root, God the Son as the shoot that breaks forth into the world and God the Spirit as that which spreads beauty and



fragrance. God in three persons, together in unity with one another. I kind of like that.

By talking about the three persons of the Trinity according to the various roles we see them in, we don't want to give the impression that each are separate. Each person of the Trinity is closely tied to the other two. Each is truly God. Each is completely God. God the Father is "associated" with creation, God the Son is "associated" with our salvation, and God the Spirit is "associated" with being our constant helper through life. The concept of the Trinity arose after Jesus' death, when early Christians struggled to find a way to express their experiences of God. Those first followers of Jesus, who were also Jewish, were monotheists, believing strongly that there is one God, who created the heavens and earth. They also knew that they had also experienced God in the person of Jesus. And after Jesus' death, they continued to experience God's presence with them, not in the Jesus of human flesh and blood, but in Spirit moving within them individually and as a community. One God, experienced in three different ways – that is the essence of the Trinity.

Paul, in Romans Chapter 5 talks about of how we relate to each person of the Trinity. First, we have peace with God, second, this peace comes through Jesus Christ, and third, this hope does not disappoint because God has poured out his love through the Holy Spirit. So that through the Holy Spirit, God's love is poured right into us, right into our hearts, right into our very cores. He starts with mentioning his suffering, but ends up rejoicing in his hope. Here Paul has experienced a relationship with God his Creator, God in the risen Christ, God in the Holy Spirit dwelling right in his heart. And if God is with him in all of this, in all these ways, perhaps it is not so difficult to expect that hope can spring from our own difficulties too. We are faced with our own emotions, our own reactions to the highs and lows in our lives.

Paul encourages us to respond as he responds, first by recognising God's presence in every part and every event in our lives, and then by our faith, as we learn to trust and hope that God's love will be poured into us through every experience, no matter how difficult or challenging or painful. For many of you this is not a new message but it is a hard message.

If you are a person who finds it difficult to accept a compliment, for example, accepting God's unimaginable love for you may not be easy. If you are an independent soul who loves doing things for others but finds it difficult to allow people to do things for you, allowing God's love to be poured into you may not be easy. If you think highly of others, admire their intelligence, their kindness, but are always criticizing yourself and blaming yourself, receiving God's unconditional love may not be easy. In verse 5: "God's love has been poured out in our hearts." Receive it. Let God be God in you. What does that mean? If we receive God's love, then we accept ourselves as God accepts us, and then we have that hope. Hope is born out of the Grace of God which gives us the ability to endure troubles, and to be patient, knowing that God is with us, in our time of need. When we feel affirmed we receive peace from God the Father, through God the Son we are set free through the resurrection, and God as the Holy Spirit reminds us each and every day of His enduring love. It takes all three to accomplish that one purpose and that is the Trinity.

Jesus says in our Gospel reading today, that: "He had much more to tell them, but right now they couldn't bear it." They needed more time and they needed the help of the Spirit. He tells the disciples that they can handle this much now and there's more to understand later on. We are all at different stages in the journey of faith and life and what we can cope with, constantly changes. So we develop through stages. The Trinity is about our relationship with God, a God who is here, present, active, and working in our lives; who helps us to learn the truth about ourselves and the truth about Him. And He doesn't want us to ever stop asking questions and stop seeking Him. God wants a relationship with us that includes all our questions, all our curiosities, all our doubts, and all our limitations. But, instead of trying to understand the trinitarian concept of God, He asks us to simply live the Trinity, by welcoming each of God's persons into our hearts. God is much more than a doctrine and much more than a Holy mystery. God decided that the best way He could build a relationship with us was with three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The God who we stand in awe of as we look upon our world, the Son with

whom we walk with in our struggles, failures, and joys, and the Holy Spirit with whom we remember all that is good and wonderful in God.

Finally the Trinity is all about radical equality. There is no hierarchy here because all are equal, in loving communion and relationship with each other. That radical equality in the essence of God is an example to us of how we are to live. Jesus shows us this model in his teachings. The God whom Jesus preaches about, and lives out, is a God who is in solidarity with the hungry, the poor, the prisoners, the outcast, with prostitutes and lepers and tax collectors. All are equal, in God's eyes. The Trinity continues to call us, as individuals and the church, into loving relationships in our community and the world. So the Trinity is not some abstract, convoluted doctrine. It shows us how to relate to God and to one another. When we demonstrate this radical way of living, creating loving relationships with one another and offering God's love equally to all whom we meet, we are acting in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Hymn STF 15 (How great is our God)

The splendor of a king
Clothed in majesty
Let all the Earth rejoice
All the Earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
Trembles at His voice

*How great is our God,
sing with me
How great is our God,
and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One
Father, Spirit and Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Chorus x 2

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God
Name above all...

*Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash
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Prayers of Intercession *(Nico)*

Let us Pray.....

Loving God, we pray For the Church and those in leadership , that they may renew and deepen the life of all Christians.

We pray for those who Govern nations and countries that they may make decisions that honour every person.

We pray for families, households and communities that they may be places of communion and mutual support.

We pray for those who are fragmented and apart, that they may be given the strength to face difficulties that have separated them from loved ones.

We pray for those in physical, emotional and spiritual pain that they may be comforted in times of great need.

We pray especially for Palestine and Israel and for a peaceful resolution to all the turmoil and violence in Gaza and East Jerusalem and for a continued cease fire. We pray for India as it battles the covid crisis with lack of health supplies and a new variant that has emerged.

For the Congo forced to evacuate due to a a dangerous volcano eruption and who are searching desperately for loved ones.

For those whom have been injured in a train crash in Malaysia. For people everywhere who are afraid due to war, living in dire situations especially children living on our streets and in migrant camps and those who are simply trying to stay alive in difficult times.

We pray especially for those among us who may be dealing with the loss of someone in their life. For those among us dealing with any health issues. For those among us who are anxious and feeling isolated. For those in our hearts who we know needing your healing and love.

We pray for peace and for love and for your grace to surround our world.

Lord in your mercy.....
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, accept our prayers and may we, as the Body of Christ, be signs of your enduring strength to all people and reflect your loving ways. We ask all this in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Hymn STF 148

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven,
Bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore,

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar,
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer,
strong Deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
- Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and Hell's
Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises,
songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)
translated by Peter Williams (1727-1796)
UBP -. Calamus Licence No. A-734967

Blessing and Benediction (Nico)

May God crown you with glory
and honour; May Christ Jesus
bring you into the mercy of God;
and may the Holy Spirit pour love
into your hearts and guide you
into all truth.

May the Blessing of God the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be
among us and remain with us
always. AMEN.

