

Bulletin for Sunday 5 June 2022

Good morning friends, on this Trinity Sunday.

Please note there will be no Bulletin next week as I will be on holiday.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn: This is the day (R&S 377)

Prayers: Creator God, you saw that your creation was good;
and we, made in your image, praise you
for its beauty, and complexity, and wonder.
Christ, who came and lived among us,
making friends, and sharing meals, we praise you
for making possible our relationship with you.
Holy Spirit, leading us into life, we praise you
for your renewing, encouraging presence with us.
Holy God, three in one and one in three, we praise you.
We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and on everything we give in your service,
today and every day. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 8 and John 16: 12-15

Reflection: Relationships between people are so often more complicated than we like to admit - enriched by shared experience and memories, yet simultaneously threatened by differing points of view and conflicting interests. We try to simplify - to idealise certain friendships or families - but, people being only human, our simple pictures are bound to fail.

If that is the case with our fellow human beings, how much more must it be true of God? God is, in Christian understanding, three persons in relationship - Trinity. When we try to visualise or explain the Trinity, we are liable to use nice simple models - three-legged stools and shamrock leaves etc. These may help us start thinking, but part of the message of our reading from John's gospel is, I think, a reminder that life is way beyond

our complete understanding, at least at present. So we can assume that the relationship between Creator, Christ and Spirit is wonderfully layered and richly nuanced, and also alive and dynamic. Beyond our human understanding... and yet an example for us to worship and to follow. Perhaps most helpfully there are icons which represent the Trinity with images of three people, usually seated around a table. You could look up Rublev's Icon, if you're not familiar with it. Their body language and the way they look at each other speaks of the relationship between them, not a hierarchy but a close and living relationship of equals. A living relationship out of which comes all of God's loving and life-giving work. May God help us to understand, and to follow! Amen

Hymn: Thou whose almighty word (R&S 38)

Prayers: God of compassion, we hold before you our world,
with all its pain and injustice, conflict and violence...
We pray for those who have lost loved ones,
whether to war, or accident, or disease:
may they know your comforting presence.
We pray too for those living with loneliness,
missing the company of friends or of family.
Loving God, show us all how to share your love.
We hold before you the hungry and the homeless;
and the needs of our own communities and neighbours.
In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers,
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts. Amen

Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us (R&S 543)

Blessing: May we be aware of God -
in our hearts, our lives and our world;
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love,
this week, and always. Amen

There will be a Sunday at Six Zoom service at 6pm this Sunday (but not next week).

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