

twelvebaskets



TRINITY SUNDAY C

A complete Sunday service ready to use
for worship and inspire ideas in your church

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Trinity Sunday - Year C
15th June 2025



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

726 STF – Come to us, creative Spirit OR

155 STF – Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Hymn:

111 STF – Lord of the boundless curves of space OR

400 STF – Wind of God, dynamic Spirit

Readings: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Hymn:

59 STF – Lord the light of your love is shining OR

682 STF – God of grace and God of glory

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

112 STF – O Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth OR

371 STF – Breathe on me, Spirit of Jesus

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

Hymn:

313 STF – Thine be the glory OR

134 STF – Christ whose glory fills the skies

Blessing

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Call to worship

God who is relationship,
show us how to be people of love and healing in our own communities.
God who is togetherness,
show us how to build bonds of unity, not uniformity.
God who is creative tension, three in one,
show us how to be creative in your name, we pray

Amen.¹

Hymn:

726 STF – Come to us, creative Spirit OR

155 STF – Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire

Opening Prayers

We join together in prayer on this Trinity Sunday,
Creator God we give thanks for our world,
for the love you have for us.

Forgive us when our faith is small and weak.
Even when we doubt help us remember you know and love us.

On this Trinity Sunday we give thanks for the Holy Spirit,
Comforter, intercessor, helper, empowerer.

Help us embrace the gifts you have given us.

Forgive us when we are too afraid to embrace the gifts we have been given,
We fear failure so don't lift our heads above the parapet.

We don't allow your light to shine upon us.

Ask the average 5-year-old what they are good at and the answers are generally extensive
and freely exhibited.

By the time you ask most 13-year-olds the answer is often an embarrassed nothing.

Inside and outside there are too many voices casting doubts upon us.

The Spirit is freely available to each and every one of us,
with gratitude help us lift our heads up and accept the divine power.

As we embrace the Spirit let us embrace it in a way that it flows from us,
flows from us and out of us so we can embolden others,

spreading peace, love, gratitude and truth in Your name in all aspects of life. Amen.²

¹ Call to worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Lorna Dobson

We say together the Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Have you ever tried to carry something that was just too big or too heavy to carry all at once? Maybe a huge stack of books, or too many grocery bags?

(Ask the congregation for a few responses if appropriate.)

Sometimes you have to take things one step at a time. You carry one or two bags, then come back for more. You learn a little at a time; you are stronger and wiser before you know it.

In today's Bible reading, Jesus is speaking to his friends. He says something exciting: "I have so much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it all right now. But do not worry, because the Spirit of Truth will come to help you."

Jesus says learning about God is a bit like carrying those heavy bags. We cannot understand everything all at once. But we are not left alone. God sends the Spirit to guide us step by step.

The Spirit of Truth is another name for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us know what is right, feel God's love, and nudges us to act kindly, reasonably, and courageously. The Holy Spirit speaks of the same love that comes from the parental God.

So, when we listen carefully, pray, or feel that little tug on our hearts to help or forgive someone, that might well be the Holy Spirit at work.

Today, we remember that Jesus promised that we would never be without help. Even when life feels confusing or we are unsure what to do, the Holy Spirit guides us.

It is a bit like being on a path at night. Imagine you are walking and you have a small torch. You cannot see everything immediately, but the light shows you enough to take the next step. Then the next. And then the next. The Holy Spirit is like that torch always shining enough light for us to keep walking forward with trust.

So here is a challenge for us this week:

- When making a choice, big or small, why not stop for a moment and say, "Holy Spirit, guide me".
- When you feel unsure, remember you are not alone. The Spirit is speaking and guiding you, just like Jesus promised.

Let us trust that God's Spirit will always lead us in love, in truth, and in hope.

Amen.³

Hymn:

111 STF – Lord of the boundless curves of space OR

400 STF – Wind of God, dynamic Spirit

³ All Age Talk written by Matthew Forsyth

Readings: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Hymn:

59 STF – Lord the light of your love is shining OR

682 STF – God of grace and God of glory

Reflections on the readings

There is a dance at the centre of God.

The dance entwines Creator, Son and Spirit in a spiral of interlocking understanding. The dance of God, within God's very self, the perplexing nature of Jesus, the invisible and unpredictable work of the Spirit and the initiating and sustaining Creator of all things visible and invisible, each coming into focus and disappearing in a blur as we wrestle with Scripture, experience and reason in our human search for meaning. Today is Trinity Sunday and it's absolutely fine to be baffled!

Dancing is not everybody's thing. To attend church in Africa can be excruciatingly embarrassing for a White Westerner with no sense of rhythm, the couples dancing tango in the streets of Buenos Aires may have impressive and sultry frissance which is impossible to replicate by a person with two left feet. But maybe the Scottish school concert that ends with a Ceidlh best embodies the dance of the Trinity that is in the heart of God?

Danger strikes at this point because it would be all too glib to liken the 'caller' to the creator, the participants to the incarnate one and the music to the spirit – but this would be to miss the point. The point is that this dance, where lads dance with lads and grannies with granddaughters and where everyone gets it wrong and things end up in hilarious chaos, is about the relationship between the dancers, the music and the call. It is the relationship that matters.

And the doctrine of the Trinity is just one way of describing this relationship. There are times when God as Creator is central to our faith, but also times when it is hard to believe in the on-going work of Creation when so much around us is seemingly overwhelmed by destruction. There are times when the way of Jesus fills our hearts with joy and excitement, but also times when this troubling Aramean seems to talk in undecipherable riddles. There are times when God's Spirit excites and inspires us but also times when we feel dry and exhausted. Aspects of God come into focus or blur into the background. And this is not cause for despair but rather how God is within God's self, in Jim Cotter's words, within the dance of life giver, pain bearer, love maker who dwells among us and beyond us both graciously and hopefully.

In today's reading from Romans, we can hear the writer wrestling with what it means to be a follower of Jesus when things are really hard going. And although we must be wary of any notion that suffering should be sought out on purpose, he goes on to point out that Jesus didn't wait for all to be well before loving the world, for it was the broken, fragile messed up world that he came to love. The spirit of grace and truth is still gifted to us. Hope does not disappoint us.

We are not observers of this dance, we are not the passive audience phoning in our scores remotely assessing the performance. On the contrary, we are invited into the dance, even with our lack of rhythm and our two left feet, we are beckoned into this relationship with the Triune God, the Creator, Spirit and Beloved Child.

To participate in this dance is to enter into a relationship with others that see the world as divine and the work of the spirit active amongst and within the beauty and struggles of our lives. It is a call to find grace and hope in unlikely places and to go on believing within chaos and change. To enter into God's dance is to live in hope, and hope does not disappoint us because hope, through creativity, incarnation and the energy of the Spirit, is at the heart of God's relationship with the world.

Some questions for discussion in small groups, or as a whole congregation:

Which part of the Trinity do you relate to most and why?

How can you see 'God's dance' in your neighbourhood?

Where is hope to be found and how is Christian hope different?

When the conversation has run its course, bring people back together with this short prayer:

Triune God, we pray to you today, asking for your wisdom, your grace and your energy to bring hope into the world around us, to join in with your dance, to play our part in the emergence of your Kingdom, here on earth.

Amen.⁴

Hymn:

112 STF – O Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth OR

371 STF – Breathe on me, Spirit of Jesus

Prayers of intercession

God of love

God of hope

God of life,

How can we pray when the world is so troubled?

How can we respond to your love?

How can we change the hearts of the powerful?

How can we heal when we are also broken?

God of hope

God of life

God of love,

You are prayer

And within the dance of your being

You continue to create, inspire and dwell with us.

God of life

God of love

God of hope,

Pray within us today

Pray within the whole of creation

Pray within each cell and organism

Pray within each broken relationship.

⁴ Reflection written by Barbara Glasson

Dance within us, change us,
Inspire us with hope
Reveal to us the grace-filled way of Jesus,
We pray,
Amen.⁵

We will now take up the offering.

Gracious, life-giving God,
Today we are grateful.
Grateful for the many different aspects of your Trinitarian self, made known to us in prayer, in worship, in the world around us.
Help us to notice you this week, we pray,
And to use these gifts you have given us,
Including these gifts that we have given today,
To bring hope into our own lives and the lives of the people around us.

Amen.⁶

Hymn:

313 STF – Thine be the glory OR
134 STF – Christ whose glory fills the skies

Blessing

The glory belongs to you, O God,
And for that glory we will work,
We will hope,
We will pray.
This week, help me, help each of us, to reflect your glory,
In the name of the Parent, the Christ and the Spirit,
Amen.⁷

⁵ Prayers of intercession written by Barbara Glasson

⁶ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker