

**twelvebaskets**



# TRINITY SUNDAY A

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

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**Trinity Sunday - Year A**  
31st May 2026



## **Order of Service**

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**21 STF – Born in song! OR**

**81 STF – Now thank we all our God**

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**707 STF – Make me a channel of your peace OR**

**477 STF – Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart**

Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

**Hymn:**

**82 STF – O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder OR**

**404 STF – God's spirit is in my heart**

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

**663 STF – I, the Lord of sea and sky OR**

**727 STF – God in his love for us lent us this planet**

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

**585 STF – God, whose love is all around us OR**

**782 STF – Thuma mina (Send me, Lord)**

Blessing

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The Vine Services are compiled and produced by twelvebaskets.

**Many more resources and inspiration for this week's lectionary, leading worship and other church use are available on [www.theworshipcloud.com](http://www.theworshipcloud.com).**

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## **Call to worship**

On this Trinity Sunday,  
We come to worship the God who is relationship,  
The God who is Creator, Christ and Spirit,  
The God who is closer to us than we can possibly imagine.  
We come, come Lord Jesus, we pray

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## **Hymn:**

21 STF – Born in song! OR

81 STF – Now thank we all our God

## **Opening Prayers**

On this Trinity Sunday let us join together in prayer,  
In this moment let us give thanks for our world,  
for the love you have for us.

Forgive us when our faith is small and weak, when our doubts and fears overwhelm us.

Amidst the doubts help us remember you know and love us.

On this Trinity Sunday we give thanks for the Holy Spirit,  
Comforter, teacher, guide, helper, empowerer.  
Help us embrace the gifts you have given us.

Forgive us when we are too afraid to lift our heads up and appreciate those gifts.  
When we don't allow your light to shine upon us.

The Spirit is there for all of us,  
help us lift our heads up and accept your 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.<sup>2</sup>

## **We say together the Lord's Prayer**

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<sup>1</sup> Call to worship written by Tim Baker

<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Lorna Dobson

## All Age Talk

Have you ever been given an important job to do? Maybe a teacher asked you to help organise something. Maybe someone trusted you with responsibility. Being trusted with something important can feel exciting but also a little scary.

*[You might like to give people time to answer, or share in small groups].*

In today's Gospel reading Jesus gives his disciples a very important task.

After the resurrection, the friends of Jesus meet him on a mountain. And there, Jesus gives what is often called the Great Commission.

He says, "Go and make disciples of all nations."

That sounds like a very big job. But listen carefully to what Jesus says at the end.

"I am with you always."

That sentence changes everything. Jesus does not send the disciples his friends out alone. He promises his presence. And then he says something that brings us to Trinity Sunday. He tells them to baptise people "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This reminds us that God is known in relationship.

Father. Son. Holy Spirit.

God is not distant or detached. God is a community of love that reaches out to the world. And Jesus invites his followers to share that love. Now when we hear a sentence like "make disciples of all nations" we might imagine travelling across the world.

Sometimes people do. But often this begins in much simpler ways. Showing kindness. Helping someone who feels lonely. Sharing hope with someone who is struggling. Listening well. Living in a way that reflects the love of Jesus. Every act of love becomes a small sign of God's kingdom. Remember the promise that stands behind it all.

"I am with you always."

Not just in church. Not just in prayer. But in school, at work, at home, on the streets, and in communities. Whichever you may go. So, to finish, maybe you want to consider and discuss this question.

This time tomorrow I will be... *[get people to think of their day tomorrow and reflect that God is also with them].*

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

### Hymn:

707 STF – Make me a channel of your peace OR

477 STF – Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart

**Readings:** Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

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<sup>3</sup> All Age Talk written by Matthew Forsyth

## Hymn:

82 STF – O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder OR

404 STF – God's spirit is in my heart

## Reflections on the readings

These words were written by local preacher and teacher, Emma Dobson. Let's listen to her reflection now.

There's something about the process of crafting that is quite magical. There is nothing quite like the feeling of taking raw ingredients, a ball of wool or a lump of clay, and ending up with something unrecognisable and beautiful. Seeing the picture gradually take form, where there once was nothing. The feeling of pride as you step back and marvel to yourself, *I made that!*

It's also absolutely infuriating.

This is something I watch my students battle with almost on a daily basis. The image they have in their heads never quite materialises on the page, in the clay or on the baking tray. They make a mistake and can't figure out how to fix it without starting the whole thing again. I say this as if it's something we grow out of; so many of us are either impatient, or the most insufferable perfectionists, and therefore never truly satisfied. Often our own worst critics, we strive for perfection and, in the end, learn to be content with the beautiful mistakes we see before us.

This week's readings are an opportunity to marvel at miraculous craftsmanship. The story of Creation – Earth's origin story, if you will – is a warm blanket of familiarity and a beautiful journey into the mind of God. I always find reading this passage wonderfully meditative. In the midst of a busy and uncomfortable week of upheaval, these words have been a balm. I was able to take a moment to enjoy the buzz of activity, the adjectives and verbs delicately sprinkled throughout to narrate the flow of genius.

Psalms 8 is a beautiful example of this majesty being gleefully shouted from the rooftops. The Psalmist cannot contain their joy as they marvel at the beauty of what they see around them. They deftly balance celebration of the sheer magnitude of God's handiwork with the intricacies of the tiniest details.

This passage includes one of the most personally impactful verses:

*What are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honour.*

The psalmist looks once again at the sheer beauty around them, and simply cannot help but exclaim in wonder. Who are we, compared to all this? How do we even cross God's mind? Of course, our minds immediately go to one place. We have been made rulers over the works of God's hands. Really? Us? Surely there has been a mistake. It seems ludicrous. Who would trust us with anything so important? We mess up, time and time again. We never learn. We have hurt this world and destroyed relationships. We are, quite simply, not good enough. It doesn't make sense.

It doesn't make sense, and yet here we are. The good news is there, waiting for us to get the point. There is a stark reminder here. One that is sometimes all too easy for us to disregard. All we can see are our mistakes and imperfections, and yet God has only three words for us: "Good, very good".

We are called to see beyond our own self-critical eye. We are called to give that self-deprecating voice a rest, and see ourselves through God's eyes. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. We have been created with care, with the capacity for love. We are knit together, with love in every stitch. We are crowned with glory and honour. And we have been given a job to do. Our instructions are clear:

*Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. 2 Corinthians 13:11-13*

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28*

God has called us as we are. There is no mistake. God created us and placed us right here, right now. We are called to be imperfect creators. We are called to be hardworking craftspeople. We are called to try and fail. We are called to be the best we can be, then come back and be better. We are called to keep working and reworking, striving for perfection. We are called to never quite get there, but to keep hoping it's up ahead.

What can we do to banish the darkness of this cruel, scary world? We can create something. The process of creating something out of nothing is the greatest gift we have to offer as humans. There is nothing in the rulebook to say that we have to make something perfect. It simply has to be enough to inspire.

We are called to make disciples. We are not called to shame people, or to force our terrible theology on them. We are not called to judge, or seek to cleanse people. Our role as creators is to create new relationships. Our role is to meet people where they are. Our role is to support people in learning to love themselves and see themselves as a beautiful creation of God.

It's no easy task. It will take nothing less than everything we have. It involves living with our frustrations and that pesky impostor syndrome. It involves reminding ourselves we are loved, and have everything we need to fulfil the role, even when everything in us wants not to believe it. It involves being proud of our imperfections. Above all, it involves reminding ourselves that we are not alone:

*And the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13*

*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28*

Amen.<sup>4</sup>

### **Hymn:**

663 STF – I, the Lord of sea and sky OR

727 STF – God in his love for us lent us this planet

### **Prayers of intercession**

God of the Trinity,

God of Unity,

God of Harmony,

We lay our broken world at your feet.

With hearts racing, we pray for the people in our world torn apart by rising conflict:

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<sup>4</sup> Reflection written by Emma Dobson

- Families anxious to be reunited
- Parents desperately trying to keep their children safe
- Leaders who continually fail to see that there are other solutions.

Parent God, teach us to be more patient with one another .

God of the Trinity,  
 God of Unity,  
 God of Harmony,  
 We lay our broken world at your feet.

Burning with anger, we pray for those rendered voiceless by injustice:

- Children silenced by their abusers
- LGBTQ+ people made to feel like outsiders
- Believers forced to worship in secret

Christ Jesus, guide us towards freedom for all.

God of the Trinity,  
 God of Unity,  
 God of Harmony,  
 We lay our broken world at your feet.

With hearts heavy, we pray for all who are ground down by the sorrows of this world

- Families facing the loss of a loved one
- People searching for hope and purpose
- Siblings in Christ seeking relief from pain and illness

Spirit God, pour out your compassion.

God of the Trinity,  
 God of Unity,  
 God of Harmony,  
 We lay our broken world at your feet,  
 and pray that hope may always burn within our hearts

Inspire us,  
 Walk with us,  
 Strengthen us,  
 As we seek to be your people of light

Trying to give the world a taste of your glorious harmony Amen.<sup>5</sup>

**We will now take up the offering.**

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<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Emma Dobson

Loving God,  
You have shared your generous nature with us,  
Help us to spread that generosity with the world around us,  
And this community which is our mission field.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and guide our choices, we pray

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

**Hymn:**

585 STF – God, whose love is all around us OR

782 STF – Thuma mina (Send me, Lord)

**Blessing**

The invitation is for you to join the table,  
To join the relationship,  
To stand in the presence of the divine and the human, together,  
To spread the love of God in the world, in Jesus name.  
Go in peace, my friends, and serve the Lord.

Amen.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker

<sup>7</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker