

twelvebaskets



TRINITY C

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

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Trinity Sunday - Year C
12th June 2022



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

155 STF – Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire OR

45 STF – Earth’s creator, everyday God (verses 1,9,10 and 11)

Opening Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

All Age Talk

Hymn:

490 STF – Being of beings, God of love OR

371 STF – Breathe on me, Spirit of Jesus

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

Hymn:

764 STF – We believe in God the Father OR

726 STF – Come to us, creative Spirit

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

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

682 STF – God of grace and God of glory

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

Hymn:

400 STF – Wind of God, dynamic Spirit OR

641 STF – When circumstances make my life

Blessing

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Call to worship

The God who is God of relationship,
Invites you into relationship today.

On this Trinity Sunday, when we give thanks for the three-in-oneness of our God,
Show us how to build, cherish and nurture those relationships in our own lives,
And show us how to worship you.

Amen.¹

Hymn:

155 STF – Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire OR

45 STF – Earth's creator, everyday God (verses 1,9,10 and 11)

Opening Prayers

Prayers of thanksgiving

Majestic creator,
In love you formed the heavens and the earth
And your works declare your glory
Thank you for giving us such beauty to behold
And a rich landscape to take delight in.
We respond to the good gifts of your creation
With thanksgiving and praise
For you alone deserve the glory,

Amen.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Perfect in unity and love
Thank you for pouring your love into your creative works
And for revealing who you are in your redemptive acts.
We glorify your name and rejoice in all you are

Amen.

A prayer of confession

Heavenly Father,
We confess that we have not loved you, our neighbours and our world like we ought
We have failed in the things we have said and done
And in the things we have neglected to say and do.

We have not sought your kingdom first
But instead invested in our own selfish desires,
Through your Holy Spirit, give us the strength to change our ways
Living by the example of your Son, as ones made in your image and for your glory.

[Pause]

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

In the stillness, we hear your reassurance, reminding us that we are loved, forgiven and set free. And for that we praise you this day, Lord.

Amen.²

We say together the Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Instead or as well as this talk, you could:

- *Invite people to create a trinity symbol, this could be printing out images of a shamrock or Celtic Trinity symbols for people to colour in and decorate.*
- *Papier-mâché: Get balloons and cut up square pieces of blue and green crepe paper to be glued to the blown-up balloon to create a globe. They can write on the globe, or a tag fixed to the globe – Wisdom: I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.*

We have all been through a very unique time in the past two years haven't we? The lockdowns meant that we have been at our homes more than usual. So maybe it feels a little bit strange when we spend time away from someone that we love.

Maybe you had a sleepover, or a trip where you weren't in your home. You might miss the people that you're separated from in those circumstances, right? It's challenging.

Have you ever taken something with you to remind you of those loved ones? Or, if you've gone away from home, have you taken something that felt like home? Perhaps you have a special blanket or stuffed animal that does this job, comforting you and reminding you of things and people you love. Those things that we bring help us to remember what we have left behind, which in turn brings comfort.

Did you know that Jesus did something similar for us? Before He died, He told His disciples that He was going to send them a special helper. He said that He would be physically gone, and they wouldn't see Him, but that He wasn't leaving them forever. Jesus said He would give His spirit to comfort.

That message was not just for the disciples, but it's for us, too! We don't see God with our eyes, but we know that His Spirit lives in us, and we can feel that. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray, guides us, and comforts us. We know that God is present always.

² Opening prayers written by Claire Welch

Let us pray.

Lord, help us to remember that wherever we go that the Holy Spirit is there to comfort and help us.

Amen.³

Hymn:

490 STF – Being of beings, God of love OR

371 STF – Breathe on me, Spirit of Jesus

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

Hymn:

764 STF – We believe in God the Father OR

726 STF – Come to us, creative Spirit

Reflections on the reading

After each of the short reflections in this message, there are a couple of questions. You might choose to invite the congregation to reflect on these on their own (perhaps playing some gentle music in the background while they do so), or you might invite them to break into small groups to discuss them, or even have the discussion as a whole congregation.

In Proverbs 8:1-4, wisdom is personified as a woman who seeks to be heard by all. She positions herself on the heights to enable her voice to travel down to the roads. She positions herself at the crossroads, in the hustle and bustle of the busy parts of town. She positions herself at the gates, where she can be heard by the decision makers. This town is full of wisdom's voice, they cannot say they didn't hear her.

- Where is wisdom's voice today? And how open are we, and our decision makers, to it?

Proverbs 8:22-31 looks at the theme of wisdom's involvement in creation. Much scholarly debate has occurred to identify who she is. Does she represent the Torah? Does she give a pre-incarnation appearance of the second person in the Trinity? Is she God's Spirit (Irenaeus)? Or should she not be limited to one thing or person, but be seen to be woven into all acts related to creation? Before anything is created, wisdom is there. Creation is formed skilfully with wisdom's integral involvement. Implied in this is that it is possible to discern something of God's wisdom in our study of creation. Often science and religion are pitted against each other, but this passage helps us to see how well related they are. Science should lead us to a greater understanding of God. A picture of celebration is created with God finding delight in wisdom and wisdom finding delight in God and his creation. There is something playful and enjoyable in these descriptions that remind us of the pleasure God gets from his creation. This challenges us to be wise in how we interact with creation, that

³ All Age Talk written by Matthew Forsyth

we delight in the wonderful gift it is and act in ways that promotes its healthy flourishing.

- How has science and the study of creation helped you to gain greater understanding of God and his wisdom?
- In what ways do you delight in God's creation?

Psalm 8

Psalm 8 is a beautiful wisdom psalm that is full of wonder and thanksgiving. The psalmist begins and ends his poetry with the same refrain, drawing our attention to the majesty of God. The writer describes something of the human situation, that as we look to the skies above us and the vast world around us, we sense the transcendent. Something beyond us, greater than us, in existence. The writer knows that this something is God.

- What moments of transcendence have you experienced?
- Where do you go to be drawn into a place of wonder?

On reflecting on God's wonderful works, he marvels at the fact that such a God cares for mere mortals, humans, each one of us. Amazingly, God has given us a wonderful role and an exalted position in his creation. Of all creatures, humans are made in God's image, and he has crowned us with glory and honour. We have an important function in creation, to rule over it, reflecting the kingly rule of love and care displayed by our Creator.

- What does it mean to you that God is mindful of you and cares for you?
- In what ways do we fulfil our role well and in what ways do we fall short?

Romans 5:1-5

Paul has made the case in the first chapters of the letter that we, both Jews and Gentiles, are justified by faith. Such faith enables us to have peace with God. We are no longer in a state of rebellion against God, no longer setting ourselves up as his enemies, but in Christ, we experience reconciliation with God. This means that we get access to God, to stand in his presence and, thanks to Jesus, we will be glorified as co-heirs with him. But we continue to live in a world rebelling against him, and this is why as his followers we can expect to suffer. Yet this suffering does not crush us or defeat us, because God's grace is at work in us, and his power is giving us inner strength to endure, and this endurance produces character. In our afflictions we have the character to remain faithful, as we take refuge in God and lean on him. This is why hope is produced because God reveals to us that he is present and active in our lives now, and this gives us hope for our future with him. The experience described by Paul is of 'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.' No matter what we face or how hard it gets, God gives us his love, a love that immerses our heart, our very core, our very being. God's love holds us and sustains us in all situations that we face. [If you are focusing on Trinity Sunday, you may wish to acknowledge how the different roles the persons in the God head relate to our salvation in this passage e.g. the work of Jesus reconciling us to the Father and giving us access to him, and the love of the Father being made known to us through the Holy Spirit.]

- What are your experiences of living in a world rebelling against God?
- Discuss the times when you have felt God's love with you in times of suffering?

John 16:12-15

The disciples were not ready to hear all that Jesus had to teach them. Perhaps this is because certain events had to unfold, such as Jesus' death, resurrection, and exaltation, before they were able to grasp their full meaning, or perhaps they would find the information overwhelming and emotionally upsetting. Jesus' response reminds us that he is kind to us and attentive to our needs. The events to occur are not just regular events, they are extraordinary and world altering. To understand them they need God's help, the person of the Holy Spirit to reveal it to them. In this passage the Spirit of truth will carry on Jesus' role of teacher. The Spirit will not speak on his own, the message to be told and the truth to be revealed, has a trinitarian origin. For all that the Father has, also belongs to Jesus, and Jesus says the Holy Spirit will share what belongs to them. This reveals something of the inner working and intimacy between the persons of the Trinity. Just as Jesus has sought to bring glory to the Father, the Spirit will bring glory to Jesus.

- In what ways has Jesus been kind to you and attentive to your needs?
- How has the Holy Spirit been at work in revealing truth to you?⁴

Hymn:

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

682 STF – God of grace and God of glory

Prayers of intercession

Creator God,

We pray for our leaders

and all those in decision making positions.

May they seek your guidance and wisdom.

In the stillness, let wisdom speak

And all who hear her respond.

[Hold a moment of quiet]

Creator God,

We thank you for scientists

and all those seeking to understand your world

and are acting to make it flourish.

May barriers to their work be removed

and new discoveries found.

In the stillness, let wisdom speak

And all who hear her respond.

[Hold a moment of quiet]

Creator God,

Move us to care for your creation in a way that reflects your love.

⁴ Reflection written by Claire Welch

Help us to make decisions that reduces the effects of climate change and stops damaging your world.

May we seek to create a world where all people can find delight in it.

In the stillness, let wisdom speak
And all who hear her respond.

[Hold a moment of quiet]

Amen.⁵

We will now take up the offering.

Blessing the offering

You are a God of relationships, and you call us into relationship again today – relationship to each other, to the earth and to people and places we have never met or visited.

May we use our gifts, and these gifts of money, to build better relationships and connections,
In Jesus' name, Amen.⁶

Hymn:

400 STF – Wind of God, dynamic Spirit OR

641 STF – When circumstances make my life

Blessing

On we go, in search of grace,
From here we rise, seeking relationship with the divine and with each other,
Forward to go, playing our part in a world of justice and peace.
We go by your Spirit, and in your mighty name, Lord Jesus,
Amen.⁷

⁵ Prayers of intercession by Claire Welch

⁶ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker