

Darlington District Worship at Home Trinity Sunday 30 May 2021

free gift of grace we can approach him, we can find the strength to carry out the tasks he has for us, and above all we can know his immense and wonderful love which he offers to each and every one of us.

Intercessions Let us pray to the Father, through the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit, for the Church and the world.

Loving God we pray for your Church, that we may be a community of love reflecting your love as we serve you in our community. Renew our faith and strengthen our weakness. Fill us with your Spirit and make us your true witnesses. Help us to be open to new challenges and make us your true disciples.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

God of all justice bring your justice to the world. We pray for world leaders that they govern fairly and honestly seeking the welfare of all. We pray especially today for the government and people in India battling to save lives with little to help them. Bring them hope as they struggle through this pandemic. We ask that the governments in Israel and Palestine may seek peace and that a ceasefire will come soon.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

God of compassion comfort those who are sorrowing. Heal the sick in body or in mind and deliver those who are oppressed. Give us compassion for all who suffer and the strength to help carry their burdens as you would wish.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Loving God we thank you for all those who have served you faithfully, especially those who were our guides and mentors in the faith. May we and all your people be ever faithful and follow in their footsteps as we share the life and joy of your kingdom. Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: **Sing of a God in majestic divinity** (StF 13)

Blessing

Let the love of the Father course through our veins
Let the goodness of Christ pulse through our bodies
Let the power of the Spirit flow through our souls
Let the wonder of God resonate through our minds
Glory be to God, Father Son and Holy Spirit
Now and for all eternity **Amen**

Insights for Reflection Matthew for Everyone Tom Wright. Blessing Nick Fawcett
Service compiled by Local Preacher, Judith Winn – thank you, Judith

Let us come now into the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Come with joy and gladness. Come with praise and prayer. Come, and worship the Lord.

Hymn **Holy holy holy Lord God almighty** (StF 13 H&P 7)

Prayers God, who created everything, the galaxies with their stars and planets, and our own planet with its amazing diversity. You are so far above us, yet within our reach.

Creator God: **Accept our adoration, praise and worship**

You are the holiest of beings even the angels are overwhelmed, and yet you are the one in who can anchor our being.

Holy God: **Accept our adoration praise and worship.**

You have legions of angels to command, and yet you call ordinary folk to do your work. Beyond us, yet encouraging us to come nearer.

Approachable God: **Accept our adoration, praise and worship.**

Caring enough to send the prophets and even the Word your Son, because whom you make you love. Calling us to respond.

Compassionate God: **Accept our adoration, praise and worship.**

Giving yourself for us, overflowing with grace, redeeming humankind once for all in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus,

Sacrificial God: **Accept our adoration, praise and worship.**

Freeing your Holy Spirit to enable and equip us to respond to your call to do your work in your world.

Ascended liberating God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: **Accept our adoration, praise and worship. Amen**

Confession: Lord we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you, cared for your world, or respected your people as we should. We have ignored your requests and turned our backs on your challenges. **We are sorry. Father Forgive us.**

We rejoice because you are a loving forgiving God who says to all who repent that their sins are forgiven. Amen

Bible readings [Psalm 8](#), [Matthew 28: 16-20](#)

Hymn: **God with us: Creator, Father** (StF 8)

Reflection

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.

These words from the Nicene are said regularly in Christian churches throughout the world. They have their place in our Communion Service and they state categorically what we believe about the person and being of God. At first sight talking about God as three in one and one in three seems utterly incomprehensible and there have been many illustrations like shamrock leaves or ice, water and steam or a really good one which was told to my brother by a very wise preacher many years ago. He said $1+1+1=3$ but $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. (clever)

Then I thought what about me. How am I identified? For years I went through life being known as Joe Kidd's daughter, then John Kidd's sister and at one time Sister Anne's sister and when I was introduced to someone as Richard Winn's Mam I began to wonder who I really was. To my children I'm Mam or Mother if I'm in bother, to my siblings I'm our Ju to my nieces and nephews, aunty Ju and to my grandsons I'm Grandma, and so I could go on. All these names and I'm a different person to each of them But I'm still me Judith Elizabeth Winn I began to wonder could the Trinity be a bit like that?

Think of God the Father or God the Creator, the person who made people in his own image giving them his characteristics. The creation story shows the power majesty and greatness of God. The stage has been set for that special unique relationship that God has with humanity. Being made in God's image is basic to the human structure and we can't destroy it. Yes, we can mar and blur the image but God doesn't ever give up on us. We can always have this special relationship with him. How then do we seek to maintain this relationship with God the Father/creator? We pray to him and call upon him. We worship him and offer him thanks for all he's done for us, but sometimes it seems as if he's a long way off yet is still available to us. How?

Let's think about the second person of this amazing three in one person, the person who is Jesus. For many of us our real knowledge of God comes through the person of Jesus. For some people Jesus is a door which opens to God, others see him as bridge between us and God. This is Jesus who came as a human baby but also this is God himself coming into his world. Remember he was called Emmanuel or God with us and he came to bring

justice and righteousness to God's world and to repair the damage which generations had done to their relationship with God. And he did this by his life death and resurrection. One of the many titles or names people used for Jesus was Lord. The risen Christ is Lord, and in him the whole promise of the Gospel is fulfilled.

When Jesus was on the mountain with his disciples something special happened. Jesus the Emmanuel, the one in whom God is with us, declares that he himself will be with them always. Jesus has now been given all authority in heaven and earth. His is the authority under which God's new life can begin to flourish. The new life for the world, the kingdom God, is breaking in through Jesus who rules with life giving love. But we know that Jesus, before he left, commissioned his disciples to take the message of the kingdom of God to as many people as possible. This message still needs to be told to the world and in his commentary on Matthew's gospel Bishop Tom Wright says that we as Jesus' followers are "Given the responsibility to go and make real in the world the authority which he already has"

And this is where the third member of the three in one comes into force: God the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit was there from the beginning hovering over the waters at creation. The Spirit breathed life into the first created humans. God's Spirit was in and with Jesus as he did his work on earth, was breathed onto his disciples in an upper room and as was promised was given to the church at Pentecost. And think what an effect it had. There was comfort for disciples when they thought all was lost, scared frightened people were excited and bubbling over with the good news of Jesus. It turned the man Peter who wept bitterly after he had denied his Lord into a man who could stand in front of crowds and preach a remarkable sermon. We're one week on from Pentecost today but I would like to remind you of what we as Jesus' followers are promised. God says "I will pour out my Spirit on all people". All people means you and me and everyone else.

The Creator Father God who made us in his own likeness, is the same one who in Jesus came to fulfil the law and the prophets and give himself to reclaim that special relationship we humans have with God. Through him we can come to the majesty of God. God too is present in his Holy Spirit whom he gives to us so that we can carry out his commission. Whom God calls he equips. He doesn't just say go and make disciples, he gives us a promise too: I am with you always to the end of the age. God keeps his promises. Perhaps there are things about the Trinity we don't understand and the mystery remains. Whether we are dealing with God the Father, God the Son or God the Holy Spirit the important thing to remember is that through his