

# WELCOME

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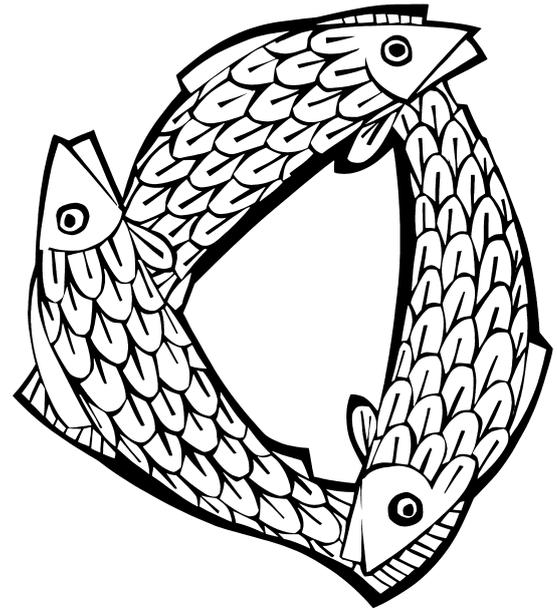
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## TRINITY SUNDAY

7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### COLLECT

Holy God, faithful and unchanging:  
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of  
your truth, and draw us more deeply into  
the mystery of your love, that we may  
truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



### READINGS

NT: 2 Corinthians 13: 11—end

<sup>11</sup> And now, my friends, farewell. Strive for perfection; listen to my appeals; agree with one another; live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a sign of peace. All of God's people send you their greetings. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28: 16—20

The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."



## PRAYERS

In our prayer today, we come before you Father, to offer our praise and thanksgiving. You are the creator, giving us richly all things to enjoy. You are Christ, come as one of us to set us free from our selfishness. You are the Spirit of truth and love, come to live in us. One god, eternal Trinity, be near to us, formed in your image, and close to the world your love brings to life.

Lord, in your mercy

We pray for our sisters and brothers throughout the world, for those who are thriving and those who have lost a sense of direction.

We give thanks for our community of faith and celebrate the gifts you have given us. Open wide our hearts that we may welcome the stranger and share our faith with others, open wide our minds that we may receive new wisdom and understand your call, open wide our doors, that as we have come to worship so we may go out with you to the service of the world, open wide our lives that through the rhythms of life and prayer we may experience your power in daily living.

Loving God, you provide us with everything need for life and health. Grant that the resources of the earth may neither be hoarded by the selfish nor squandered by the foolish but that all may share your gifts.

We remember all who bear the responsibility of leadership, for heads of state, ministers, M.P.s and political advisers, we think today particularly of the leaders of our political parties. May they act wisely, honestly and for the good of all your people.

We pray for peace in the world, not peace that is absent from struggle, nor peace that is blind to injustice but peace that makes whole what now is broken. We remember those who struggle against injustice, for women and men who struggle to bring justice and reconciliation in violent and oppressive societies. We pray especially for all those who are oppressed by racism in the United States and in this country.

We pray for those whom war and famine have robbed of homes, families and friends. May they be filled with your strength and wisdom and grant that where the love of man has failed your divine compassion may heal.

We pray for those who are sick, sad or lonely and those who are brave and patient

when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved.

We pray for all who mourn. Be with them in their loneliness and let them know that Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. You turn our darkness into light; in your light shall we see light

God of life, we ask you to walk beside us in the coming week, Help us to trust that you are close by us.

Merciful Father accept these prayers, for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Please pray this week for: Bud, Jean and T.J. Also Graham, Joy and family, they recently lost William Oliver, Joy's father.

Let's say the Lord's Prayer together.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Given that theologians have still not, after 2000 years, come up with an entirely satisfactory account of the theology of the Trinity, it always seems a bit mad for vicars to have a go at it in a sermon. It's one of the reasons most of us will happily take a visitor or an offer from a colleague when it comes to this Sunday. The truth is of course, it can't be done. In the end, three in one and one in three can't really ever be fully or adequately understood like a times table or even like a poem. In fact, what really lies at the heart of the theology of the Trinity is that it can't ever be fully understood. It is literally beyond us. Because God, fully understood, is beyond us. All we can know of God is the wonder we experience at the glory of creation, the glimpses we catch of God in the stories and experience of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the stirrings of realisation and revelation that come to us as the Spirit moves in and through our lives. Shamrocks; ice, water and steam games; complicated triangles, all fall short.

To most of us, the Trinity seems murky, mysterious, and mostly irrelevant to our everyday lives.

How useful is it to have a festival, even a theology of the Trinity in the first place? Lots might say...none! Just ask the faithful tying themselves in explanatory knots in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries as Islam, with its gloriously simple "There is no God but God and Mohammed is his prophet" competed with the tortures of the Athanasian Creed (look it up if you have a spare wet Wednesday, it'll keep you going all day....) An Islamic simplicity that swept north through previously Christian Africa and the near East.

But if you felt like chucking it all out, you'd be making a mistake. Just as I did for about the first twenty years of my theologically impatient journey of faith. 'Oh No!', I'd think, 'not the Trinity again!'

But then I joined the Iona Community and all that melted away as I was introduced to the possibility of setting aside any attempt to explain the Trinity and instead to accept an invitation simply to live it.

To begin with, I was urged to get rid of all those, sometimes silly, examples of the Trinity I mentioned and others you might have encountered. They make us think of the Trinity as a problem to be solved rather than a reality in which we are called to live. I was shown that at the centre of all that exists, at the heart of the universe, there is an eternal community of perfect divine love. Traditional faith calls this

community Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our faith teaches us that God is love, but the only way God can be love is for God to be a community of divine persons for love is by definition, relational. Love doesn't exist, properly, if you're on your own. Love is not, ever, simply one thing. Love is giving, receiving, disciplining, joy, pain, encouragement, guidance, affirmation, celebration. It laughs, weeps, sings, is silent. Love is too much for just one expression. God is the eternal community of all that love is.

The nature of true love is not binding or limiting, but expansive. Love flows outward, it grows. Therefore, the very act of creating the universe is an overflow of love from that original divine community as it expands in love and delight to include all of the beloved creatures. You and me and all the rest.

Some of the early church fathers used a Greek word to describe the life and love of the Holy Trinity: *perichoresis*. It includes the ideas of complete interlinking, a kind of perfect, loving, indwelling. Or it can mean a dance; the divine dance of perfect love for all eternity.

The early church was quite good at an apophatic approach to the Trinity. That is to say it was good at saying what the Trinity was not: not a chain of command; not an amorphous energy field of love; not three gods who get along really well a bit like celestial area bishops.

Each person of the Trinity is uniquely itself, distinctly three persons, and yet is perfectly united in being God. It is a community of perfect love.

And we are invited to join in the dance. Jesus makes the astounding claim that the ultimate purpose of God's dancing community is to include us in this eternal trinitarian, communal dance of love. The Creator comes as the Christ to be one of us. By faith and baptism we are included in this relationship between Creator and Christ. Last week at Pentecost, God comes back to us as Spirit and we are filled with that Spirit, with God. In this moment, Jesus' promise that we will be in him as he is in the Creator and we will all be one is fulfilled as we come to share in this eternal community of love through the indwelling of the Spirit.

Ditch the theological angst then. Throw out those tortured, half-cocked diagrams and examples. The Trinity is no more than, no less than, the Community of God, the Community of Divine Love dancing through space, time and the whole of life. Catch hold, you are invited to join in. Amen

*Richard Lane*

## NOTICES

### Giving—Revised notice!

Thanks to everyone who has been able to continue to give to St George's. As ever, if you'd prefer to deliver cash or cheques through the vicarage letterbox in Vancouver Road, that would be fine. If you would like to contribute electronically, you can pay into the church account using the following details:

St George with St Michaels & All Angels PCC  
National Westminster Bank plc 61 Sydenham Road London SE26 5HW  
Sort Code 60 21 12 Account 37302337

If you'd like to set up a standing order then please email Simon, the treasurer at [simont388@gmail.com](mailto:simont388@gmail.com). He would be delighted to advise you!

### Supporting St George's School

Several families with children at St George's school, really struggle financially. Some of those children are finding life especially hard during lock down. We have decided, to support some of these families by supplementing the very small amount of emergency aid they receive from the government. If you feel you would like to support church efforts to help these families, please make a donation to St George's church either with cash through the vicarage door, direct bank transfer into the church account (let us know you've done it!) or a cheque payable to St George and St Michael PCC (also through the vicarage door). Thank you.

### Knitting—from Sheila Cameron

PROJECT LINUS Some years ago a little American girl went on television and talked about her experience of treatment, for cancer, She said her security blanket had been a great comfort. Katie, the wife of a famous drummer, had just learnt to crochet, She decided to make a blanket for every child in the oncology unit of her local hospital. Her idea caught on and eventually became a charity. The charity got the name PROJECT LINUS after the little character in the "Peanuts" cartoon called LINUS because he always carries a security blanket. The charity spread to UK and now more than 100 co-ordinators throughout the UK collect and distribute the hand made blankets and quilts to sick and traumatised children. In the first 10 weeks of this year, they distributed over 6,000 !! Both "Knit for Peace" and "Project Linus" are closed at the moment due to the crisis, but they will hopefully be open again soon. to receive what we have made. Stay safe and God Bless, Sheila.

## **POEM—LET'S ALL DRINK TO LOCKDOWN**

By Jan Beaumont & contributed by Pat Russell

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.  
You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.  
They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.  
We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s –  
If you only knew the truth!  
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.  
Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?

## **LOCKDOWN LINGO!**

Contributed by Pat Russell

**Le Creuset wrist:** It's the new "avocado hand" - an aching arm after taking one's best saucepan outside to bang during the weekly 'Clap For Carers.' It might be heavy but you're keen to impress the neighbours with your high-quality kitchenware.

**Coronials:** As opposed to millennials, this refers to the future generation of babies conceived or born during coronavirus quarantine. They might also become known as "Generation C" or, more spookily, "Children of the Quarn".

**Furlough Merlot:** Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. Also known as "bored-eaux" or "cabernet tedium".

We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this bloody virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

## **PODCAST & SERVICES**

Each week the ministry team is producing something to listen to as well as read. You can find it here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-238594520/sets/podcast>

Ifeanyi is hosting Zoom services every **Sunday at 10:00** and you are welcome to join in. See the website for details and liturgy: <https://www.stgeorgeandstmichael.org.uk/st-michaels-online-services/>

The Church of England have set up **Daily Hope**, a 24h FREEPHONE number to call for prayers, reflections and hymns: 0800 804 8044.



### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you: **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you: **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace: **Amen**

May God, the one who makes us, walks with us and inspires us  
holy and undivided, Three in one,  
guard you, save you,  
and bring you to that heavenly life,  
where she lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**