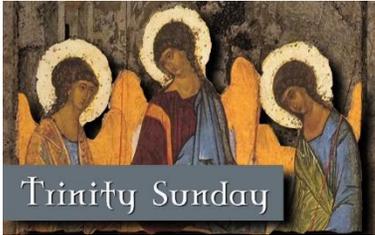


Holy Trinity Church Eccleshall



7th June

Trinity Sunday



The Holy Trinity

with thanks to

Rev. Stephen Habgood

Today we think of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, after which our church was named and dedicated. Trinity Sunday, which falls on the first Sunday after Pentecost, is one of the few feasts in the Christian calendar that celebrate a doctrine rather than an event.

The Trinity is a controversial doctrine; many Christians admit they don't fully understand it, while many more Christians don't understand it but think they do.

In fact, although they'd be horrified to hear it, many Christians sometimes behave as if they believe in three Gods and at other times as if they believe in one.

The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most difficult ideas in Christianity, but it's fundamental to Christians because it:

- states what Christians believe God is like and who he is
- plays a central part in Christians' worship of an "unobjectifiable and incomprehensible God"
- emphasises that God is very different from human beings
- reflects the ways Christians believe God encounters them
- is a central element of Christian identity
- teaches Christians vital truths about relationship and community
- reveals that God can be seen only as a spiritual experience whose mystery inspires awe and cannot be understood logically

Christianity adopted what appears to be a complicated idea of God because it was the only

way they could make sense of One God in the context of the events and teaching of the Bible. Humanity met God in three different forms: God the Father: revealed by the Old Testament to be the Creator, Lord, Father and Judge. God's wish that we should see him more clearly, know what he was like, and see how he wanted us to live our lives, meant He had to come and live amongst us. God the Son: who had lived on earth amongst human beings teaching us that we must love one another, as He loves us.

God the Holy Spirit: who fills us with new life and power and makes real God's promise to be with us forever, to be a source of guidance, comfort and power.

The Bible taught that Christians were to worship Father and Son and Holy Spirit. It also taught that Christians should only worship God. Finally, it taught that there was only one God.

This seemed to put Christians in an impossible position from which they were rescued by the doctrine of the Trinity, which solved the puzzle by stating that God must be simultaneously both Three and One.

The New Testament of the Bible never explicitly refers to the Trinity as such, but it does contain a number of references, such as the one in today's reading: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This is referred to as the 'Great Commission'.

Before trying to understand the doctrine of the Trinity, it's vital for us to realise why it's important.

- it brings us face to face with the mystery of God
- it helps us recognise the God we meet in the Bible, in history and in our own lives
- it helps us understand God's complexity, otherness and mystery
- it helps us to worship God
- it steers us away from wrong ideas of God, such as: a patriarchal/hierarchical God or a God who can be logically understood
- it is the foundation of much Christian worship and liturgy
- it helps us understand our own nature as made in the image of God

- it provides us with a model for human relationships, both as individuals and in community.

The Trinity expresses the way we as Christians should relate to God: we worship God the Father; we follow the example set by God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit lives within us.

Today it is important that we pray for our own church as we seek to serve the people of this community and help them to find God and experience the love God has for them.

We pray for all who live in our community at Eccleshall; that they may come to faith and experience God in their lives; as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
 who has given to us your servants grace,
 by the confession of a true faith,
 to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
 and, in the power of the divine majesty,
 to worship the Unity:
 we beseech you that you would keep us
 steadfast in this faith
 and evermore defend us from all adversities;
 who lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.

Hymn

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
 holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
 God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
 casting down their golden crowns
 around the glassy sea;
 cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
 which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
 though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
 only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
 perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 All thy works shall praise thy name,
 in earth and sky and sea;
 holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
 God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Corinthians 13 11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Hymn

Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness
 heard, and took their flight;
 hear us, we humbly pray, and,
 where the Gospel day
 sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring
 on thy redeeming wing
 healing and sight,
 health to the sick in mind, sight to the in-ly blind,
 O now to all mankind, let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight!
Move on the waters' face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and, in earth's darkest place, let there be light!



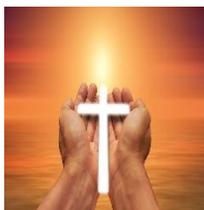
Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide, let there be light!

Gospel Matthew 28 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Intercessions

*with thanks to
Ellie Cheetham-Wilkinson*



The Church of Christ

Heavenly Father, we pray for the worldwide church, which is your body, commissioned and sent out by Jesus to make disciples. We thank you that we are called to live in unity and to stand out as people of love. Help us Lord, during this time of uncertainty and so much cruelty, to love you and to love our neighbours, no matter their colour, class, caste or creed. May the church be the voice of reason, your voice Lord, and may those who lead us within the church stand up for the welfare and wellbeing of

others. We pray that their voices would be heard, and that love and righteousness would win through.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

The world/creation/those in authority

Lord Jesus, we thank you for your creation, for the beauty of nature in which many of us find a closeness to you. We thank you for the blessing of different seasons and that Spring has been so glorious.

Father God, as we recognise the positive impact lockdown has had on our planet, and the reduction in emissions, may we be mindful in our use of its resources. We pray Lord that the Government would hold to its promise to produce more electric vehicles and to provide funding for electric bikes where these can be used.

Father, we also pray that you would help those in Government and Science to make right decisions as we gradually come out of lockdown, placing people at the centre rather than finances.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

The local community

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this community and the way in which people have come together to support one another during this Pandemic. We thank you for the many volunteers who have stepped up to collect prescriptions, collect shopping, make a phone call or provided support in any other way.

May we continue to be mindful of one another as restrictions are eased and businesses begin to open again. Help us to continue to support and love one another through this difficult time. We pray for the head teachers, teachers and support staff who have gone back into schools this week to provide education, love and pastoral care for many young children, and we ask that you strengthen them and give them wisdom in these unprecedented times.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Those in need

Heavenly Father, thank you that you hear the cries of all your children and that you love each one of us equally. We ask that you bring peace and comfort to those suffering from illness or bereavement during this time, and that you would help them as they walk through the valley with you. We pray that in you they would see light and hope and remember that you are the great comforter. Father we ask that you bring justice where justice is needed, especially in America where there is so much needless suffering being caused.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Ourselves/communion of saints

Finally, Lord we pray for ourselves and for the whole communion of saints. Thank you, Father, that we have a relationship with the living God and that you have not left us on our own. Thank you that we have the gift of your Holy Spirit to teach and guide us. Help us to remember the Great Commission as Jesus sent out his disciples with His authority, and to remember that we have been given the same authority to go out and share the love of Christ. May we remember that we are your representatives here on earth as we go about of daily lives.

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



Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen

Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;
his holy Name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

