

**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.**

Go on your way and in all of life, worship the Lord.
Entrust yourself to the winds of God's Spirit;
put to death selfish desires,
and offer yourself for God's mission in the world.

May the blessing of the God of peace and justice
be with us;

May the blessing of the Son
who weeps the tears of the world's suffering
be with us;

And may the blessing of the Spirit
who inspires us to reconciliation and hope
be with us
from now into eternity. **Amen.**

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
...**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



St Margaret's, Old Catton



Trinity Sunday

7 June 2020

*this service can be found online at <https://youtu.be/iE8s9vP8M-g>
You can also find it on 'A Church Near You' - look for St Margaret's Old Catton*

The blessing of Father, Spirit, Son
Holy Trinity, Three in One,
be in our meeting
and our greeting,
in the worship we share
and the words of our prayer.

The blessing of Father, Spirit, Son
Holy Trinity, Three in One,
be in our living
and our breathing,
that through our hearts
and our words
your truth may be heard.

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.**



Silence

Eternal God, source of all blessing, help us to worship you
with all our heart and mind and strength; for you alone are God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

St Paul says
'Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved;
do not grieve the Holy Spirit; put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice.'

So let us confess our sins to God
who forgives us in Christ.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God, the Father of mercies,
has reconciled the world to himself
through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ,
not counting our trespasses against us,
but sending his Holy Spirit
to shed abroad his love among us.
Receive his pardon and peace
to stand before him in his strength alone,
this day and evermore. **Amen.**

1st reading

2 Corinthians 13.11-13

Brothers and sisters, 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.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

God, the Life-Giving Trinity

The words God speaks
are the life and sustenance of all that exists.

The life Jesus gives
is the re-creation and renewed birth of all that is broken and worn.

The Spirit's stirring in our souls
is the inspiration for creativity, compassion, joy, and community.

2

O Triune God, your three fold name was placed upon us when we were baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And this day we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in essence of Majesty coequal. Grant us the grace to continue in this faith until we join the hosts of heaven that cry, *Holy, holy, holy* before your heavenly throne, you who live and rule, one God, through all eternity. **Amen.**

We are a world that is desperate for you, God.

When powers struggle for dominance,
and war, oppression and abuse result;
When groups of people oppose one another
because of ideology, religion or culture;
We need you, a God who is bigger than ourselves,
and our personal interests.

When people are disregarded and devalued
because of poverty, geography or disease;
When compassion and justice is withheld to some
because of colour of skin, sexuality, race or gender;
We need you, a Saviour who is more compassionate than we are
who includes even those we would exclude.

When resources are mismanaged and abused,
and the world and its creatures are destroyed;
When motivation is scarce and creativity is in short supply
to address the challenges that we face;
We need you, a Spirit who is more powerful and more creative
than we could ever be.

Lord God, Loving Saviour, Empowering Spirit,
we offer you these prayers
because we need you so desperately.
Captivate us, call us and fill us,
that we may be carriers of your eternal life
to this world that you love so dearly. Amen.

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

The one God in whom and for whom, all things exist, is visible in Christ, and is at work within us living his life in us. We have to say that God is one and that God is three. Anything less is less than the truth.

The doctrine of the Trinity is not an attempt by the church to *unravel* the mystery around God. In fact, it deepens the mystery. It doesn't tell us everything about what God is, and who he is. It raises more questions rather than give answers. But it does tell us about some important things about God – things that are life changing.

Who is God? He is our heavenly Father who made us, takes cares of us and calls us his dear children.

Who is God? He is Jesus Christ who gave his life on the cross to re-establish our relationship with God. He reveals the way to God and to eternal life.

Who is God? God is the Spirit in you giving you faith, upholding and guiding you in your daily walk as a Christian.

Faith in the Triune God acknowledges the might and majesty of God but at the same brings trust in a God who cares for the even the tiniest detail.

He is the idea, the origin of all things, who through the activity of his only-begotten Son brought us salvation, and who through the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit, dwells among us and changes our lives.

Prayers of Intercession

Majestic Creator God, God before time,
we find you in the heavens above us:
Light beyond light, our beginning before all beginnings.

God With Us,
we find you here on earth, all around us:
You make your home in our fellowship and communion,
our daily bread, and in your church, the body of Christ.

Spirit of Pentecostal fire, Holy Ghost,
we find you burning in truth,
ministering with comfort,
and interceding with us with sighs too deep for words.

God, stretch our imaginations!
Open our eyes to see you
in your majesty above us,
your mystery around us,
and your Spirit always with us, one God, for ever. Amen

Life-giving, life-restoring, life-fulfilling God;
may our whole lives be worship.
In all things, may we seek to connect with
and to reflect your love and your hope.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28.16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped 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, baptising 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.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Affirmation of Faith

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;

**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

Trinity Sunday isn't usually an occasion that many people get excited about. However, I was presented to this church at my institution by a representative of Norwich Cathedral, and I expect my successor will be, one day. And Norwich Cathedral, the patron of this living, is called officially, the Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity.

And this building bears the signs of belief in the Trinity. Above the high altar there is the trefoil window, like 3 leaves. I reckon the glass in it is Victorian, but I dare say the window is much older. And then in the middle of the rose window in the South Aisle there are various symbols of our faith, including a classic diagram of the Trinity.

It is intended to explain in simple terms what God is and is not.

Now if you are as old as I am, and if you were brought up in the Church of England as a child, the chances are that you got bored with long sermons and services and rummaged around the Book of Common Prayer because that's what you had to hand. You could explore and find the bit to tell you how to work out the day of Easter for many years ahead. You might also stumble across something called '*Quicumque Vult*'. Those are the opening words in Latin of what became known as the Athanasian Creed - '*Whoever wants to be saved, it's necessary to hold the catholic faith*'. Confusingly it wasn't by Athanasius, and probably wasn't written till 100 years after he died. But it does try to explain the God that Christians believe in. The little panel of glass in the centre of the rose window tells us that the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit; the Spirit is not the Father; but that each of them are God.

And although it was written many centuries ago (probably the 6th century) and is in rather tedious language, it attempts to do something rather mysterious and wonderful. The creator of the world, the redeemer of the world, and the sustainer of the world are not separate but one. Each is truly God, completely and fully. There is nothing lacking, yet somehow that's not the whole story. The problem with a human being attempting to understand the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is that we can only be in one place at one time, usually only do one thing at one time (especially if you're a man) and only think one thought at one time. The problem of understanding is the problem of the limits of our minds. But God is not so limited.

Dorothy L Sayers, the author and crime writer, and creator of Lord Peter Wimsey saw in the work of writing, a pattern of the Trinity. She saw a wonderful image of God the Holy Trinity in the way a book was written.

First of all, the author has an idea, a concept of what the book will be about. It's not just a random jumble of words, but the idea's expression.

Secondly, the book has to be physically written, a lot of hard slog - in those days with fountain pen on paper, and now at a keyboard - and the writing process continues with editing and printing, bookbinding, packing and distributing, or putting it online or making it available through Kindle.

And then thirdly, the book is read. The idea which set it in motion and which is expressed on the printed page or the little grey screen, is read, is apprehended, understood and thought about by a completely different person from the one who wrote it. It has an effect on people at a remote distance, a power of its own.

So there is the Idea, the Activity and the Power. And that is Dorothy Sayers' analogy of the Holy Trinity. Each aspect is the complete book. The idea covers the whole book; the whole book is written, printed, bound and sold; and the entire book is read. You cannot say it is only partly the idea, or only partly written. Each is the entire book in itself, but each is necessary to the whole. According to Dorothy Sayers, God the Father is the creative idea, God the Son is the creative activity, and God the Holy Spirit is the creative power who comes to the reader and may change or influence their lives. Each is a necessary part of the whole, and the whole is one thing, not three things.

The first thing we know about God, is that God creates. All that exists is there because God pours himself out in creation.

And then, the God who creates is also a God who communicates. You could, I suppose, have a God who creates and then stays silent. Our God speaks. In the beginning was the word says St. John. So, another thing we do know is that God speaks. And the word that God speaks is Jesus. Which changes everything. You see the love that is at the heart of all things, the mysterious love of a Creator that pours himself out in the joyful business of creating, is also the love we encounter in a human being, Jesus. The God we cannot know, the love we cannot describe we meet in Jesus and we recognise him.

Jesus is not created; he is not a creature. He is 'begotten, not created,' a child, a Son, uniquely begotten before time began. He has the same life of the Father and, in him, that life, the life of God himself, is perfectly united to the whole lively and messy business of being human.

And then, that mysterious life and love of the Father, which is lived in front of us by the Son, is also lived within and among us. We do not just see it, we share it. We are drawn into that life and love. That is the third thing we know. We know that the life of God breathes in us, that we are taken up into the life of God.

We may not know God. We do not know God, but we know what we need to know. We know that we meet God in three ways. We have to say that the one God is Trinity. The one God is Father, Son and Spirit.