

Shellrock Benefice Service Sheet for Trinity, June 7th 2020

Collect

Holy Spirit, 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 Ghost. Amen

Readings

Isaiah 40, 12-17, 27-31; Psalm 8; 2 Cor 13, 11-13; Matthew 28, 16-20

A Reflection

Today, my friends, is Trinity Sunday, and I should be breathing a sigh of relief that I'm not up there in the pulpit trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity! It can be a heady discussion and many ministers over the centuries have shied away from even beginning to try to explain it. Why do we even need a Trinity Sunday, some would ask, since unlike other festivals, such as Easter, it doesn't get much recognition? Saint Augustine used a very simple illustration of Trinity; it's like a tree which has roots, a trunk and branches. All are wood, one substance, but the three have different functions. Well ----- maybe ---- a useful analogy?

Despite its difficulty, a lot of important theological thinking has been carried out on the Trinity in recent decades. Briefly, the idea is that Trinity is an exemplar of what human beings, by their very nature, are; deeply social. To say that God is "three in one and one in three" is to mean that God is social. Created in the image of God, we are likewise inherently social. Yes, I know that takes some thinking about, and discussion amongst us, but the implications are with us every day. For example, the pain and distress so many are experiencing as a result of "lockdown" is because we are, by our nature, social. We long for connection with each other, just as God longs for connection with us.

In that lovely passage from Corinthians which is set for today's epistle, Paul gives the greatest hope for the church in Corinth and also the church for today. These verses point to the relational nature of God and remind us of the potential of our relationship, through God.

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

Suggestions for prayer:

For people in government that their decisions are wise and guided by compassion

For the people of America who are experiencing many problems

For all people known to us who are ill at this time

For the bereaved and especially for the family and friends of Doreen Lincoln

For thanks to all volunteers wherever they are, dedicating time and energy to serve others

For thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit to inspire and guide us in all aspects of our lives

The Lord's Prayer

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

Blessing

The goodness of the creator, the grace of the Saviour, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit be upon us and within us this day and all the days of our lives. Amen