



Sunday 7th June 2020 TRINITY SUNDAY

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

I as Chaplain welcome you to the thirteenth St George's Barcelona and Andorra Virtual Church Service where on this Sunday known as Trinity Sunday, we celebrate the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, or as the Celtic church puts it the Three-in-One, One-in-Three.

During this service, after each hymn being announced, we will allow time for you to change the YouTube link if you choose. Also, after each passage of our Bible reading is announced we will allow time for you to look it up in your Bibles, or on your Bible Apps or Bible Gateway and follow the reading. We use the New International Version (UK).

So let us quieten our hearts as we pray the St George's Prayer:

Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more, may we feel your love and care through each other, may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.

A SONG OF PRAISE TO CALL US TO WORSHIP **Bless the Lord O my soul, all that is within me bless his holy name** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSxocnlaNOA>

TODAY'S PSALM is PSALM 8

For the director of music. According to gittith. A psalm of David.

¹ **LORD, our Lord**, how majestic is your name **in all the earth!** You have set your glory **in the heavens.** ² Through the praise of **children and infants** you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ **When I consider your heavens**, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ **what is mankind** that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels **and crowned them with glory and honour.** ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ **LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF CELEBRATION - *Sunday School ...* **Alle alle alle-luia** (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiIlN3uoj9s>

CONFESSION

✠ God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer. *cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

We say together

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION *is pronounced and all respond:*

✠ May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw *us* to himself, and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins that *we* may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*In response we sing the Gloria: **Gloria to God** in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWIGw2CTBIE>

THE COLLECT *Let us pray:*

✠ 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. **Amen**

THE WORD OF GOD

✠ **THE FIRST READING** ✠ **ISAIAH 40. 27-31**

²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, '**My way is hidden from the LORD**; my cause is disregarded by my God'? ²⁸ **Do you not know?** Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. **He will not grow tired or weary**, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ **He gives strength to the weary** and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ **Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;** ³¹ **but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.**

This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God

✠ **THE SECOND READING** **2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-14**

¹¹ **Finally**, brothers and sisters, **rejoice!** **Strive** for full restoration, **encourage** one another, be of one mind, **live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.** ¹² **Greet one another with a holy kiss.** ¹³ All God's people here send their greetings. ¹⁴ **May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God

GOSPEL HYMN *to prepare us to listen to the story of our Lord we will sing a prayer of openness to God* **God forgave my sin in Jesus' name** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo3MGpcBC5M>

✠ **THE GOSPEL** **MATTHEW 28.16-20**

Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty. **All Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew , *Glory to you O Lord*

Matthew 28.16-20 ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain **where Jesus had told them to go.** ¹⁷ When they saw him, **they worshipped him; but some doubted.** ¹⁸ Then Jesus **came to them and said,** 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord, *Praise you O Christ*

SERMON TRINITY SUNDAY

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

✦ **The rhythm of the Christian year** is designed to remind us of the story of our Lord Jesus. We began with the story of Advent in November, a story about comings – his first coming at Christmas and his second coming that we await. From there we followed his story until the Presentation in the Temple at the beginning of February. Then we turn our eyes to the Cross, a time that includes Lent and Holy Week. The Cross takes us to Easter and the 50 days after his resurrection – days we were celebrating right until Pentecost last week.

✦ **So here we are at the beginning of June** and the story doesn't really start again until November. We have 5 months until we start again. What do we do in these 5 months? How will we pass our time? What focus should we have?

✦ **What we do is we think about the God** who Christ made known in his incarnation, in God taking flesh, Emmanuel, God with us. We reflect on the impact of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in how we understand God.

✦ **We begin that today in what is called Trinity Sunday.** The Sundays following this are called the Sundays after Trinity and this year goes up to number 19 which we celebrate at the end of October. Because there are few special celebrations in this time, it is called Ordinary Time and because the most ordinary colour in nature is green, we use green. There is nothing extraordinarily special in these things. This sort of rhythm developed over centuries as the church reflected on how to keep re-telling the story of the Scriptures in such a way that children and new disciples would learn the faith and that those who were familiar with the Scriptures would be reminded of what they believed. Today though IS a special celebration and we use white.

HOW WE THINK IS IMPORTANT: HOW WE THINK AFFECTS WHO WE ARE and HOW WE BEHAVE

If God is up there and doesn't care, we can do what we want;

If God is up there and is as a police judge, we will live in fear;

If God is up there and we cannot know him, we will live in uncertainty

HOWEVER

✦ If God has made himself known in the creation of humankind, male and female both being made in his image, as Scripture teaches us, we have a God who is not just male, we have a God who, despite the paucity of our language, is both ... and We have a God interested in relationships.

✦ Our Psalm for today, Psalm 8 starts off by extolling God, his majesty and glory both here in earth and in the heavens, the depth of the universe. He says that the youngest, children and earth, can marvel and praise. If this is our God, who are we and of what worth are we?

✦ Yet the Psalmist says we are special v5 ⁵ *You have made them a little lower than the angels **and crowned them with glory and honour.*** But in the Psalmist' thinking, looking at people doe no lead us to glorify humanity, rather he cries out in v9 ⁹ ***LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*** God made, and makes, himself known in all of his creation including the wonder of women and men.

✦ **He also makes himself known personally.** If, as the song says, *'Then God sent his Son, they called him Jesus'* and if Jesus is, as Scripture says, *'Emmanuel, God with us'*. Then we have a God who can be known in human form.

✦ **But how can we ever begin to understand this God,** we cannot control him, we cannot even begin to grasp the very outer edge of who he is. The church in the early centuries struggled with this.

✦ What has become known as the Trinity **is really about the nature of God.** A God like us would be no God. God is bigger than we are, otherwise he would be no God.

✦ **So what is God about?** 1 Corinthians tells us **he is about Restoration ... *Strive for full restoration*** (NIV) - other translations are: Aim for restoration (ESV) Be complete (NKJV) Be perfect (KJV) Put things in order (NRSV) Aim for perfection (old NIV) – Why the change in translation? Restoration is to aim for the total re-creation of what God meant you to be. It is not simply to do with living morally. It is as when Like we restore old furniture or an old painting ... it is to bring it back to its original splendour. That is what God is about – returning you and me to the original splendour of the creation of women and men in his image.

✦ **We are to strive for this ...** work hard at working with God ... how are we restored to what we should be? It comes by how we live together: ***encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.*** ¹² ***Greet one another with a holy kiss.*** ¹³ *All God's people here send their greetings.* I am not sure when we will see the kiss return to our culture here in our virus-oriented world, but whether in action, sign or intention, we become more what God wants us to be through each other.

✦ **Our Isaiah reading** tells us that this God we believe in is limitless in strength and energy and therefore ***He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.*** ³⁰ ***Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;*** ³¹ ***but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*** To be encouraged means to be given courage. Having a God who himself does not tire or grows weak enables us, as we rely on him, to have our strength and energy renewed.

✦ **As we compare this with 1 Corinthians,** God often does this through each other. As companions in the fellowship of Christ, we share our bread and as disciples we continually learn from him. Again there is a togetherness in the Christian community. Having just watched the third of the three Lord of the Ring film – the Return of the King, you see the blessing of companionship, of friendship. This is a glue provided by God; Last week I asked people to write in if they had a sense of what the Holy Spirit may be saying: Don and Sally Bethell wrote to me: *Where Jenny Shaw has said her word was 'wait', the word that came to mind for me was 'glue'. In this time of fragmentation where we are not able to worship together as a congregation, as a Church, we need something that lets us know that we are not a group of individuals but remain a single entity keeping all of the synergistic power that communal worship gives. Your message today re-enforced that for me as the Holy Spirit being the adhesive that binds us all together while we are living our separate cloistered lives'.* Fellowship is a mutual commitment that we have because of Christ.

✠ **Finally, how does all this tie in with the theme of today**, which is the Trinity? Our **1 Corinthians** passage finishes with: ¹⁴ *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* It is the abiding presence of Father, Son and Holy Spirit that makes all else possible. It is in this name (singular) we are sent out (**Matthew 28**): ¹⁹ *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;*

✠ Christ himself put the three together, Father, Son and Holy Spirit .. and here he put himself equal to the Father! He gave himself authority: ²⁰ *and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.* He even put himself as everlasting, *and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

✠ **This is the nature of God.** In him is true community and is the basis of all other community. The importance of the Trinity is that God is outside, alongside and within. God our Father, Jesus our Lord, Spirit our indweller, always three in one, always one in three. The Christian faith is essentially a faith of relationships rather than structure. I said last year on this Sunday: This should result in a life marked by the qualities of relationships of the Trinity. A relationship of love flowing between God himself, Father Son and Holy Spirit, then down from God and then outwards to each other. A cycle of love ... Christianity is a religion of lovers!!

Jesus says: *As you go into all the world ... and I am with you always.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

✠ *In response to God's Word we join together in the* **THE APOSTLES' CREED –**

This is what we believe.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (adapted from the prayers of the Chaplaincy of Costa Blanca)

O Lord, hear my prayer *may be sung*

*To the words: Lord, in your mercy the response is: **hear our prayer***

God in three persons, blessed Trinity, on this special day, we come before you to offer our praise and adoration. You are God, the creator, giving us richly all things to enjoy. You are Christ the Saviour of the world, made flesh to set us free. You are the Spirit of truth and love, willing to dwell in us. You are holy and blessed. One God, eternal Trinity, be near to us the people formed in your image, and close to the world, your love brings to life.

God in three persons, blessed Trinity, we pray for your church throughout the world, we give thanks for our congregations and people. We ask you to open wide our hearts that we may continue to welcome the stranger and share our faith with others.

(Short Silence) Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

God in three persons, blessed Trinity, we remember all who bear the responsibility of leadership, we think today particularly of the leaders of the world as they and their peoples start to return slowly to a new normality; let your will for our world be accomplished through the decisions they make and give them a vision of a better way of life for everyone.

(Short Silence) Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

God in three persons, blessed Trinity, we pray for peace in the world, in our communities and our families: create in us a love for peace, not peace that is absent from struggle, nor peace that is blind to injustice but the peace that makes whole what now is broken.

(Short Silence) Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

God in three persons, blessed Trinity, we remember this morning 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 continue to give thanks for all frontline workers as they continue to risk their lives coping with the this situation

In the quietness let us bring before God those in our hearts who are in special need of prayer

(Short Silence) Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

God in three persons, blessed Trinity, we remember before God, those who have died and we pray for all whose life is saddened by the death of a loved one, be with them in their loneliness and let them know that Jesus Christ is the light of the world a light which no darkness can quench. We especially pray for who have died from the virus and their loved ones who were unable to attend their funerals.

In the quietness let us bring before God those in our hearts those who have died and those who are mourning

(Short Silence) Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father God, lead us into the coming week, Son of God, help us to believe that you are close to us, Spirit of God, keep us from making mistakes, Triune God, help us never to disappoint you, and when we face hard decisions or difficult work, when we enjoy ourselves and have fun with others may we know that you share these times with us.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Minister Almighty and everlasting God,
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

✠ Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.
The peace of the triune God be always with you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace

- Normally the gifts of the people are gathered at this time. DonorBox is now live on our church website and you can give your tithes and offerings by Credit Card. If you are regular envelope giver, DonorBox records your name and amount and will be added to your envelope information. St George's needs your ongoing support as our costs continue even when we cannot have services here.

OFFERTORY HYMN

O Lord my God (How great thou art) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBLRsUMtuFQ>

OFFERTORY PRAYER

✠ We bless you, High King of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
they will become our spiritual food and drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here

His presence is with us

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks because you have revealed
the glory of your eternal fellowship of love with your Son and with the Holy Spirit,
three persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendour,
yet one God, ever to be worshipped and adored.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,
to proclaim the glory of your name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;

**grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.**

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

**Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.**

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people

and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The body of Christ broken for you

The blood of Christ shed for you

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

✠ Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever.

Together we say:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Dismissal – The Lord sends us out

FINAL HYMN

Let us take the words of this hymns as an encouragement and strength for the week to come

Go forth and tell O Church of God awake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNyDd9gtuk0>

BLESSING

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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