

Sheffield United Reformed Churches
Team Ministry worship for individual or family
Sunday 7th June 2020 at 10:30 am.

1st Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Today is Trinity Sunday. It is also the Sunday when we remember, Jesus commissioning his disciples from Matthew's Gospel and he sends them out to baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Trinity identifies and names the relationship between God who exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; creator, redeemer and comforter.

Although the word Trinity does not appear in the Bible, there are various passages that support the idea, especially in the New Testament.

Call to worship

God the Holy Trinity, three in one, one in three, ever-present mystery, be present as we are apart but together, as we offer you our worship, our wonder at your creation and our praise for your wonderful works.

Hymn

Spirit Of The Living God, Fall Afresh On Me.
Spirit Of The Living God, Fall Afresh On Me
Melt me, Mold me, Fill me, Use me
Spirit Of Living God - Fall Afresh On Me.

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Thanksgiving

Jesus we thank you for the Gospel of hope, and for your offering of forgiveness, give us the wisdom and courage we need to be your witnesses in today's world. Through the gift of your Holy Spirit grant us the insight to be true to Jesus' life and teaching, and the compassion to offer good news to people near and far.

Our hope, Lord, rests upon the gifts of your Spirit: our only hope for a redeemed world. Spirit of wind, spirit of fire, the earth itself cries out in its agony for the spirit of change we so badly need. God, you have called us to be your people.

Forgive us when we behave as though you are out to get us through so called unpleasant 'acts of God' rather than with us in love and compassion: draw us deeper into relationship with you, our Father whose nature is love. Forgive us God, when you ask for dialogue and we present you with a monologue, when we fail to listen and because we did not communicate we did not share your love.

Help us, Lord, to cope with our fears, our anxiety, as we respond to your call. May this time of worship fill our heart with love for you and as we worship, embraced by your love, let us give ourselves openly and freely as you give yourself to us, in tenderness, look upon us with compassion and love. Generous God, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, we worship you, the one holy and eternal God. All these prayers we bring together in the prayer, which Jesus us...

Our Father Amen



Readings

Psalm 8

The Psalmist considers the purpose of humanity in view of God's works.

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus sends His followers to make disciples of all the nations.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul invokes God's love and peace as we seek to do His work of restoring all creation.

Reflection from *Michael Gillott*

With this week leading us to Trinity Sunday I am honoured and humbled to be asked to share this reflection. I will be concentrating on the Matthew and Corinthians readings.

In the Corinthians reading Paul writes that we are to grow in maturity in the Lord and encourage each other and live in harmony and peace. I feel that Paul's final greetings to the church in Corinth are even more important today than ever, as we find our way forward. The church in Corinth had the advantage of being developed on lines already laid out elsewhere in the New Testament church. However, during this time of change that we are experiencing, there is no previous model that we can build on in our new circumstances, just as the first disciples faced a totally blank canvas when Jesus gave them the great commission (which is our Matthew reading).

Therefore, I feel these readings have come at just the right time to help us in our new emerging way of worshipping our Lord and Saviour. Responding to the great commission as it comes to us afresh today, we can discern the true sense in which Jesus originally gave it, not just as a guide-line but also instructions on how to grow in His new way.

We, like the disciples then, find ourselves facing a brand-new way of thinking going forward in this time. We are being prepared for this new way of ministry and mission. During this time of preparation, it seems that the Scriptures truly say everything that needs to be said. Jesus gives us the recipe for success; we only need to follow the recipe and we can't falter.

Paul knew that although we have the recipe those following it need to have spiritual maturity and always wait upon the Lord before setting into motion the next step.

Creating disciples seems to be the greatest ingredient in our recipe but it is important that these disciples be mature enough in the Spirit to be sent out to make disciples in their turn. In these difficult times, returning to Paul's greeting, we see a lot of encouragement of the right qualities of character and that prayer is needed. Only with these can we achieve harmony and peace in our lives together.

The beginning of the book of Acts shows, wonderfully, the way the early disciples made this work step by step. In these days, I don't think the steps we take to make this new way work for everyone need to be too drastic.

These words have been with me since this time of trial started and it seems right on this Trinity Sunday, in thinking of the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit to come together in and finding our way forward - going back to the basic instructions that Jesus gave his Disciples. May we prayerfully consider these things and I pray that the Lord will raise up His servants who will build the new way out of the ashes and bring us all closer in His loving embrace.

Prayers of Intercession

We remember your world and today we pray for the people of the USA, those who have lost their lives, and the authorities as they deal with riots and disturbances in their communities. We remember other places where there is unrest, turmoil, people are oppressed and suffer discrimination and injustice.

God, we bring you our prayers for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those with Covid19, and those who have lost loved ones may they know your hope. Be with all who work in the medical profession: medics, support staff, and chaplains; be with those in the emergency services, those keep our post and parcels arriving, and those who deliver and sell our food.

We pray for those who are now unemployed, those in debt and may we ask for your presence, Lord Jesus, in the hearts of all who are despondent and exhausted, in places where there is pressure and strain, in families where there is anxiety and fear, in places where there is loneliness and regret.

We pray for peace of mind, in places where ventures seem to have failed and confidence has been lost. We pray for the reassurance of your presence, Lord Jesus where it is needed and your Holy Spirit will

We pray for children as they have the opportunity to go back to school, for the teachers and the staff who support them. We remember all those who can now resume 'life outside of lockdown'. We think of our own families and we pray that you will keep them safe and be there in their going out and their coming in. All these prayers we ask in the name of Jesus.

Hymn

Lord of all creation, now before thy throne,
we thy people bring thee gifts that are thine own.
Thine is all the greatness, power and glory thine,
high o'er all exalted, Majesty Divine.

*Of thine own we offer, of thy gifts we give
unto thee, O Father, in whose life all live.*

Body, soul and spirit, thought and speech and song,
come to thee, Creator, and to thee belong.
These in bounden duty we devote to thee;
thine is all the power, thine the glory be.

*Of thine own we offer, of thy gifts we give
unto thee, O Father, in whose life all live.*

Of all works we doeth, none can greater be
than the work devoted, Our Lord God, to thee:
in the place we serve thee, in our place of prayer
joy awaits thy people as each one draws near

*Of thine own we offer, of thy gifts we give
unto thee, O Father, in whose life all live.*

Blessings - 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

As we start this week we will try and put things in order, listen to the appeal of truth, and live in peace, faithful to the God of love and peace. So may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us, now and always...