

## Trinity Sunday , 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020



### *The Lighting of a Candle*

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

Amen.

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.**

**Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

God our Father,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.  
For turning away from you,  
and ignoring your will for our lives;  
Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish,  
without thinking of you;  
Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do  
and think and say;  
Father forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you

by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

May the God of Love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Blessed is the Lord

**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**and in our song we will praise our God.**

### *The Collect for the day*

Almighty and everlasting God,

you have given 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:

keep us steadfast in this faith,

that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

### *Hearing and responding to the Word of God*

#### **First Reading:** Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31

<sup>12</sup>Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? <sup>13</sup>Who has directed the spirit of the LORD, or as his counsellor has instructed him? <sup>14</sup>Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? <sup>15</sup>Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust. <sup>16</sup>Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering. <sup>17</sup>All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'?

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

## **Psalm 8**

1 *O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!*

2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised  
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.

3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes,  
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,

5 What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them;  
mere human beings, that you should seek them out?

6 You have made them little lower than the angels  
and crown them with glory and honour.

7 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands  
and put all things under their feet,

8 All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea  
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

10 *O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!*

## **Second Reading:** 2 Corinthians 13.11-13

<sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

<sup>13</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

## **Gospel:** Matthew 28.16-20

<sup>16</sup>The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

<sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

## *Reflection*

*A reflection from Bishop John – [Also available on YouTube](#)*

Trinity Sunday 2020 - A Sunburst of Celebration

Just where the White Nile leaves Lake Victoria in Uganda, there is a magnificent dam, the Owen Falls Dam. As a child I used to stand and marvel at the power of the water cascading through the sluice gates of the dam, beginning its long journey to the Mediterranean. Here was the source of that remarkable river on whose banks Moses had stood in Egypt 3,000 years before and 3,000 miles downstream... the river that had saved his life and yet whose source and nature he hardly knew!

Today is Trinity Sunday..... a Sunday that often perplexes us, and yet, in the words of theologian Daniel Hardy it is: "the most exciting day of the year because it wraps up all the excitement of the other great festivals of the church's year into one sunburst of a celebration". For the Trinity is not a theory about God.... rather it is like the Nile.... it is the dynamic cascading story of God bursting across the plains of human experience and flooding us with grace, compassion, love and life!

The Trinity is the very shape of God, for just as the river is one and yet can be distinguished into its source, estuary and stream, so the Christian community has found that the one God has been with us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Moses stood at the shore of the Nile aware of the Nile and its reality as a river, yet hardly aware of its dimensions nor of the way it had come to meet Him.

The story of Israel to the time of Jesus was a story of travelling in this river with increasing appreciation of its depths and wonder. In Proverbs 8 we read about the sages of Israel grasping a pattern and order to the magnificent complexity of the world they saw about them. The universe carries the marks of the Creator within it who is the same Lord whom Moses had known and whose story the Israelite nation had been learning for over 1000 years. Yet Christians believe, it was with Jesus, that God came downstream to meet us and thereby brought the fullness of the story of this river of God into focus.

It was Jesus Christ, who spoke of the source of this river as His Father, who named the stream of this river as the Holy Spirit and claimed to be the estuary of this river Himself! It was through Jesus Christ that God as Trinity was made manifest, for it was in Christ that God reconciled the universe to Himself! In Jesus, God had come down stream from the Father filled with the Spirit of God and had made known the mystery of this river of life! And having entered the river of life through the estuary of Jesus Christ, our life as

God's people is about going upstream, discovering more of the glory and wonder of God that is and has been cascading to meet us since the beginning of creation.

Not far from the Owen Falls Dam is a memorial to John Speke, the Victorian explorer who in the later 1850's believed he was the first person to see the source of the Nile! Perhaps it was local hospitality that kept the truth from him, for of course, the Africans of that region had known that source for thousands of years! The humbling thing about this great Trinitarian river of God is that we find others who have more closely approached the source... that great Lake Victoria, the Father.... and can deepen our vision of God in quite unexpected ways... we call them "THE SAINTS"... those who are close to God.

And as we read in this week's Gospel: Matthew 28 v16-20, our Mission is to baptise new disciples in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, or, the words of our Diocesan Goals, to reach, grow and sustain in the name of the Trinity. Amen

### *Prayers of Intercession*

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.

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

God who made everyone and who may be found in every place  
Bless our parishes and Benefice, prosper our attempts to be faithful to you and to draw others  
to you.  
Inspire us by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may be a caring people, the true  
community of the body of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord:  
**thanks be to God.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore. Amen.**