

“Worship at home” for Trinity Sunday - 7th June 2020

Opening sentence: “Great is the mystery of our religion. God was manifested in the flesh”
(1 Timothy 3:16, RSV)

Hymn suggestion: STF 11/H&P 7 Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky
and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Link to YouTube video:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=414dGGTedpM>

A prayer:

How great Thou art! As we draw near to worship, we recognise again that all of our words, all of our thoughts cannot do justice to your greatness, goodness and majesty. You are so different from ourselves - You are immortal, we fade away. You are holy, we are at best people with mixed motives and muddled-up ideas. You are wise, we are ignorant. And yet you call us to spend time with you, indeed you delight over us with singing as the prophet declares. So, today, while we seek to understand you and your ways more, even more we would spend time in adoration, awe, wonder, love and praise. How great Thou art! Amen.

The Collect (prayer) for the day:

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given 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 our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible reading: 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. “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.”

Meditation: 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”

Link to Worship at Home video:
<https://youtu.be/0JDPI5uzCXs>

Time for a bit of Maths!

$$\text{If } y = x^4 + 2x, \\ \text{then } \frac{\delta y}{\delta x} = 4x^3 + 2$$

You may be very familiar with this formula or it may be “all Greek” to you. It is an example of “calculus” and I can assure you it’s absolutely true and correct. However, since it was a very long time ago that I was doing “A-level” Maths, my recollection of how it works is a best a bit hazy. It’s something to do with how you calculate the gradient of a curve. One of the realities about God is that God is a Trinity. The disciples came to realise (eventually) that Jesus was God, being able-for example- to forgive sins. Jesus Himself made the claim, “I and my Father are

one"...but at the same time "the Father" was distinct from Jesus. When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit after the Ascension, they came to realise that God was at work in and through them, but it wasn't the physical Jesus there with them. It's all a bit complicated, much more so than calculus, but true nevertheless. After all, it's not surprising that in trying to describe the one who made and sustains the limitless universe, our words are inadequate. The Christian is guided not so much by academic reasoning, but by God's own self disclosure ("revelation").

So we can't somehow "explain" God, but there are a number of analogies ("it's a bit like this...") which may help, and here are four of them:

1. The chemical formula H₂O describes water, ice and steam - they're the same thing but with different properties or activities.
2. The egg consists of yoke, albumen and shell. These three different parts are all essential to the egg as a whole, though we can think of (and cook with!) them separately.
3. Dimensions. A book or any physical object has height, width and length. These three aspects are all essential to the whole. A 2-D book wouldn't be much use, still less a 2-D car or bike! 2-D just isn't the real thing.
4. Relationships. I am a father, but also a son and a husband, but of course there's only one of me. This may be the most helpful picture of God -Father, son and Holy Spirit in perfect eternal relationship. More than that, God who is Trinity is always looking to widen relationship - and that's where we come in. We are invited to join in the "Divine Dance" of love. St John reminds us, "Dear friends, we are **now** the children of God..." (1John 3:2). If we have entered into such a relationship, we rejoice in it, nurture it and - as today's text reminds us- seek to share the Good News of the love of God with this broken world.

Prayer time. In your own words, remember before God...those in authority in this country and around the world grappling with the present crisis and the many other difficult problems humanity faces (such as all that is implied by the

"Black lives matter" movement)... all those "on the front line" whether NHS staff, transport workers, shop workers, the emergency services...those most personally affected by the Covid-19 outbreak: the bereaved, those seriously ill, those who have already lost their jobs.. the Church of Jesus Christ as together we seek to witness to the love and care of God in word and action....and for yourself and your family. Remember, too, thankfulness!

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn suggestion: STF 338 There is a redeemer

Link to YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldRcFz7rK7w>

THERE IS A REDEEMER,

Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

*Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit—
Till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory
I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place.

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The blessing: Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always.
Amen.