

Reflections for 30th May 2021

Trinity Sunday

The gift of difference

When we take a look around – at our families, friends, and neighbours, and at our nation and our world – it is very clear that God has made us to be different from each other in all kinds of ways. And we can either see those differences as a problem, or as a gift.

I believe that our understanding of God shows us a pattern of difference held together in the unity of love. That is what the idea of the Trinity is trying to express. What we call the three ‘persons’ of the Trinity is a way of talking about the three ways that we can know and experience the presence and power of God.

Alongside the Bible readings set for this Sunday, our story is about the baptism of Jesus, based on the accounts we find in the four gospels. They tell us that, as Jesus emerged from the water, the Spirit descended on him ‘like a dove’, and he heard the voice of the Father say, ‘You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’ So we see the three persons of the Trinity, united in love.

The idea of the Trinity is a way of expressing a precious truth about the nature of God, which offers us a pattern for the way that we are called to live – to experience difference as a gift to be shared in unity. But, sadly, as we look at the news, there are always examples of the shocking and tragic results that follow when people come to see our differences as something to be feared, resisted, attacked and destroyed.

The more deeply we appreciate the wonder of what God is like, the more we will learn to understand and value all the ways that God has made us different from each other, and to welcome that as a gift. And that is something that we, and our world, desperately needs.

Revd John Waller

O God our mystery,
you bring us to life,
call us to freedom,
and move between us with love.
May we so participate in the love of your trinity
that our lives may be in harmony with you,
and with all your creation. Amen.

Bible readings: Isaiah 6. 1-8; Romans 8. 12-17; John 3. 1-17

Story: 'Jesus is Baptised' (based on the accounts from the four gospels)