

In & around the Benefice....

7th June | Trinity Sunday

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Please visit our website for information on worship during the lockdown

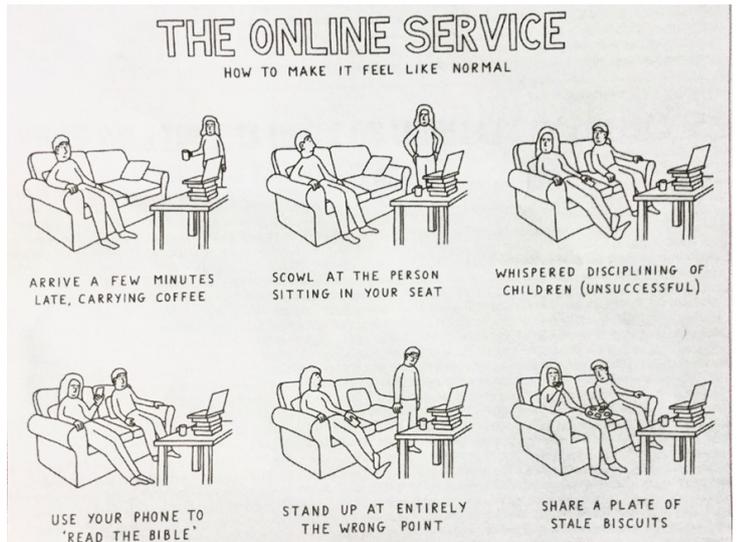
<http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk/worship/worship-during-the-lockdown>



Are you watching our online services?

Our benefice service for Trinity Sunday can be found here : https://youtu.be/CU_sGuZIUpg

You might like to find three candles to light at the beginning of the service as a reminder of God the Holy Trinity with us



Reflection for Trinity Sunday

I don't get it! That's the cry that goes up from most of us when we try to get our heads round the Trinity.

Trinity Sunday is the essential reminder, coming round once every year, that we cannot manage God – we cannot even imagine him. How can three be one? It defies both logic and understanding for if we could understand God – contain him – then he would cease to be GOD. When we are dealing with theology and faith we are always dealing with something more than we can cope with. We are dealing with things too wonderful for us to know – and we speak of things which we do not understand. God will always be beyond the capacity of our human minds.

As Rowan Williams has said – we can but “let God be God”.

However this does not really let us off the hook! We live by faith as well as knowledge and it is FAITH that teaches us that God is indeed three in one, Father Son and Holy Spirit. We can acknowledge it by faith even when we cannot understand it by knowledge. The unity of the Trinity is what holds it together. The ‘three-in-one’, when together, makes the whole. Each part is necessary and without all three it is not whole – it is not complete. For God, in the unity of the Trinity, is the supreme example of integration and completeness. God the Three-in-One is our benchmark for Comm-unity – being together as one. Jesus’ last prayer for his disciples, for the Church, was that we should be one, as He and the Father are One. No go-it-alone Christians! We're in this together, supporting, complementing, working for and with each other.

And we look to God to be with us:

- God the Father above us.....
- God the Son beside us.....
- God the Spirit within us....

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- ◇ All involved in the process of finding our new Rector
- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including the NHS, council workers, teachers
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Mhairi Boyde, Anne Blackmore, Bishop John and his wife Elizabeth, Fabienne Godfrey
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Julie Quilter, Jennifer Barry-Murray and all who grieve at this time

The Collect

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

First Reading

Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-31

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?
Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counsellor has instructed him?
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?
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.
Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering.
All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

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'?
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.
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; 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.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28: 16-20

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

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer

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.
Amen

