



## Trinity in Lockdown—Worship at Home 7 June 2020

Dear Friends of Currie Kirk. Please get in touch with the Kirk Office (451 5141) if you need anything. We have friends willing to listen, shop, walk a dog, fix a garden. Website: <https://www.curriekirk.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/>

### Call to Worship

Let us worship the eternal God  
The Source of love and life.

Let us worship Jesus Christ,  
The Risen One, who lives among us

Let us worship the Holy Spirit  
Who renews and restores us

To our One TRUE God, be praise in all times and places,  
Let us worship God.

### Opening Prayer

We praise and adore you God our Father  
You are the depth of all that is  
You are the ground of our being  
You are the maker of everything  
Because of you, things came to be and continue to come into being  
We can never grasp you, yet you grasp us  
The universe speaks of you to us and we know your love in Jesus Christ.

We praise and adore you Jesus Christ  
You are the perfection of humanity  
The Word made flesh  
You have shown us what human life should be  
In you we see divine love and human greatness  
And because of your life we can know the Father and trust in His love.

We praise and adore you, Holy Spirit  
You are the power within us, giving us abundant life  
You help make us the people we are meant to be  
You are God's gift to humanity and all creation  
You draw us to Jesus and the Father  
And because of your ceaseless activity, nothing is cut off from God.

As your church on earth and heaven we worship you  
Father, Son and Spirit  
God beyond, beside, within and all around  
We thank you for the wonder of your power  
The marvel of your mercy  
And your patient perseverance and purposes for humankind. AMEN

The Scripture Readings are taken  
from: Psalm 8:  
page 546 (NIV); and  
Galatians 4: 4-7  
page 1170 (NIV)



It is with great sadness that we  
have to intimate the deaths of :

Mrs Lyndsay Margaret Glass  
14/3 Broomhouse Drive

Mrs Doreen Ann Hay  
45 Nether Currie Crescent

Please pray for the families

## Meditation

This is Trinity Sunday when we celebrate God's self-revelation to us in three persons; the Father, the Son and the Spirit. We are used to this description of God. We hear it at baptisms, blessings and benedictions. We say it in the creeds when we profess our faith. Even the authors of those creeds sometimes struggled to understand the true mystery and meaning of it all. How do we describe or define God? It really is an impossible task.

John Wesley once said, "Show me a worm that can comprehend a human being, and then I will show you a human being that can comprehend the Triune God." Luther's comment was even more to the point. "To try to comprehend the Trinity endangers your sanity."

But what we call God, how we address God or name him infers how we relate to God, and so it matters how we describe God. When we pray the prayer Jesus taught, we pray, to God, "Hallowed be thy name."

The author of Psalm 8 also did not know how to address God exactly. He calls him Lord but extends the unknown acknowledgement of God's holiness by his name unspoken.

LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

It is as if, without knowing what to call God exactly, he simply has to acknowledge the beauty, the majesty, the wonder and glory of God and his need to praise God for calling to life the beauty of the heavens and earthly creation. But more so he is both astonished and thankful to recognise that God is mindful, and cares deeply about human beings.

When Moses first encountered eternal God in the burning bush, Moses asked God, 'But when I come to the Israelites and say to them, the God of your ancestors has sent me to you, they will ask me, "what is God's name?", what shall I say to them?' God replied, "This you shall say to the Israelites: Tell them YHWH has sent you." This Hebrew word Yaweh is just the verb "to be". Most translators say it means, "I am that I am" or "I will be who I will be."

For many Hebrews, the word YHWH was considered too holy to speak aloud. And so, God's people shared their stories of God's presence by poetically describing experiences of God as a *Shepherd who protects, as their Rock of salvation*, whom they can trust, *as the Light* who shows the way. Many used the word Elohim, which meant Lord, like in Psalm 8.

However they addressed God, they sensed His love and care. God used Moses to save people from persecution and he continued to reveal himself to them through the scripture and the prophets who encouraged them to be faithful to God's law and promises.

But God was still very much invested in Saving us from the worst of ourselves. And so God sent Jesus. Whilst the Prophets had taught about God, Jesus came to show God in a way we might more readily grasp. Finally something humanity could readily relate to, something familiar, a fellow human being. God in human skin, sharing our physical existence, our need for food and sleep, our need for companionship and laughter. Jesus shared the joyful aspects of human life—wine at weddings, meals with friends, evenings on boats teaching his beloved.

But his life also embodied divine love. He also gave us images we might recognise using the familiar name for God, "I am." He tells us, "I am the *bread of life*." "I am the *Living Water*, I am the *Good Shepherd*". John describes him as the *Light of the World*. Jesus came to provide us with everything we need—by teaching us to be intimately connected to God, our Source, our life. God sent Jesus to show his love and to continue the work of saving creation.

However Jesus did not call God by any obscure names. Jesus called God Abba, which means Father, or more aptly, Daddy. Such was the deep love between them. Jesus encourages us to address the Holiest of Holy God in such a familiar and loving way—with the openness and trust of children because God calls us His children.

By sharing our humanity, Jesus also shared with us the fact that his body, was fragile, and he offered himself to endure the worst of human life; betrayal, brutal cruelty, beatings and now pain of execution. Jesus didn't teach about Divine love, he offered himself up to show us. God's love for us is a sacrificial love that puts others before one's self, that loves neighbours who are different, that always seeks the good, goes the extra mile and seeks life. In these Pandemic times, we have been blessed to see such goodness, especially through the efforts of neighbours, key workers, delivery people and especially the NHS.

When his earthly life was said and done, and returned to the essence of God, he promised that the same Spirit of God, the breath of God that blew creation into being would be with us, enabling, strengthening and comforting. We don't have to look for God in the temple, or church for wherever we are we are in him and he is with us, even in us.

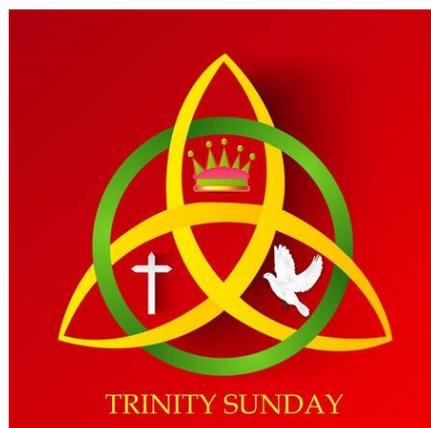
Of all the books I have read on the Trinity, my favourite has to be that of Miroslav Volf. *After Our Likeness: The Church as an Image of the Triune God*. He uses an image of Trinity from the ancient Eastern Orthodox Church which describes the infinite action, involvement and creativity of God as a circular dance of love. These three essences of God, Father, Son and Spirit live in loving communion with one another and are in a constant dance of creating, loving, saving, healing, comforting, interceding, and yes grieving with those who suffer.

My favourite aspect of this description of Trinity is that God invites us to join the dance. Jesus tells his followers, "Just as the Father sent me, so I am sending you! (John 20:21), God needs us to help create a more loving, inclusive, heavenly world.

The inclusive, loving nature of God puts to shame the recent dreadful death of George Floyd. As God's children we build one another up, and even in lockdown we stand with brothers and sisters against racism, hatred, abuse or prejudice.

I cannot imagine how it might feel to be stopped and searched, or to fear for life because of the colour of my skin. God calls us to work for radical inclusivity where all God's children are valued and hatred is overcome.

The Trinity and the holiness of God might be beyond explaining. But as God's children however we pray, and wherever and in whomever we see glimpses of God's presence, we are reminded this Trinity Sunday that just as the Holy God is in a creative loving relationship with God's self, so God is perpetually calling us into relationship offering us love, living bread, refreshing water, light for our path and joy for the journey.



# Pastoral Prayer



PASTORAL  
PRAYERS

Holy Spirit of God, pour upon us your gift of guidance  
We are living in a time which seems to specialise in confusion and change  
Confirm in us your courage for faith  
May your loving and comforting ways be our ways.  
We are your Church! Guide us with your renewing Spirit.  
Give us the heart to awaken to your wonders  
Give us the faith to see your signs of hope around us.  
Help us to be deeply so rooted in your love so that  
we may be bring about your compassion and to share the Good news that brings life!

Even in the darkest moments, You give hope. As we pray in our individual homes, that we may see how we are united as one family alongside our brothers and sisters here and everywhere in your world.  
Let us find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts for one another together in prayer.

We pray for health workers tending to the seriously ill  
And for those who look after the bereaved  
We pray for sanitation providers  
For ambulance drivers, for supermarket workers and other front-line carers.  
We pray for those who have no choice but to work  
And for others who are watching their income stream dry up.

We pray for those in leadership. Give them wisdom to react and respond  
We pray for media professionals as they try to communicate reality and convey the right message or share the truth.

We pray for people in places without good healthcare  
For people in poverty or where social distancing is hard  
And for our brothers and sisters in war zones where the threat of violence to life outweighs the threat of this Pandemic

We pray for all those who are bereaved and grieving.  
God be their healer, comfort and protection  
We pray for those who feel lonely or isolated, anxious or frightened  
Be their security, safety and close companion.  
We pray for those who are troubled by discrimination and injustice  
Be their strength, shield and provision

We give thanks for good news stories of recoveries  
We give thanks for good news stories that remind us that  
Isolation does not have to mean loneliness  
We give thanks for neighbourly notes through letterboxes offering help and support;  
For the internet and technology that can connect us whilst we are apart  
We are grateful for singing from balconies, for home performances of musicians, for quizzes on Zoom  
Bless the teachers planning lessons, adapting to new ways of sharing  
Or who are having to try to reform school lessons  
with long-term planning so creativity may thrive  
We pray you will help us all when we ease lockdown with new rules in place

Loving God, raise up your Church  
To be your well-washed hands and faithful feet  
To be present to the pain and to respond to love with action  
Even if, from a safe distance to offer our prayers for one another in love  
Bless us, each one, our families and those home-schooling their children

God Father, Son and Spirit, be with us now and always. Amen