

## Morning Praise @ Home 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### Opening prayer

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**  
*cf Psalm 51*

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins, and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Bible Readings**      **2 Corinthians 13: 11 – 14**      **Matthew 18: 16 – 20**

### Reflection from Sue

#### Three in One; One in Three



A month ago, a lot of people were waving one of these as they celebrated the crowning of our new King. It sums up our country, our nationality. We see it on 'buy British' or 'made in Britain' logos.

Yet it is actually three flags in one. The English cross of St George (which is the fat red one), the Scottish flag of St Andrew (the white tilted X against a blue background) and, superimposed on that, the red tilted X of Ireland's St Patrick. One flag, representing the UK, which gathers together the national saints' flags of three countries. It is both one and three at the same time.

That's a good way to understand what the God Christians worship each week is: one, uno, a unified, single God, who expresses his identity in three ways that we can relate to – as a Father who creates, as a Son, who lived among humanity as Jesus, and God as Holy Spirit. All three add up to the one God. Christianity, Islam and Judaism all believe in One God – but the idea of a Three in One God sets Christianity apart.

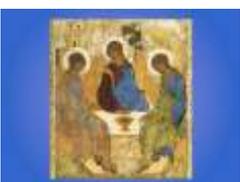


It is *one* name, yet *three* expressions of who God is.

The word 'trinity' doesn't appear in the Bible, but the different ways in which God expresses himself is written everywhere.

- Way back at the start of the Bible, we read about God speaking the world into existence whilst 'the Spirit of God was hovering over' the formless molecules.
- When God creates humanity, he declares: 'Let us make man in *our* image, in *our* likeness, acknowledging that the one God is also diverse.
- Meanwhile, we've just celebrated (at Pentecost) God's Holy Spirit being poured out on all who trust that Jesus' death on the Cross has 'paid for' their failure and rebellion against God: the Holy Spirit of Jesus, who knows the Father's will and translates it into our human experience.

Now, we know that sometimes relations between the three nations represented in our Union Jack are difficult, as each tries to act independently. But with God, that's never the case. There is complete harmony in all the ways he expresses himself.



Indeed, each person of the Trinity aims to honour the other, not diminish them. Jesus explains this to his followers in John ch 16: <sup>14</sup> [the Spirit of Truth] will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.'

And that Unity in God shows us how God wants us all to live and serve together. We are all very different but our differences mustn't get in the way of what God calls his friends to be and to do. Variety can result in creativity, but also requires grace and respect for each other's gifts.

All this isn't meant to confuse us but to help us know God well, and in a rich and life-shaping way.

Firstly we discover that our amazing, complex God wants to communicate with us and relate to us. He inspired poets and historians and prophets to record his dealings with humanity in the Bible; Jesus actively demonstrated God-ness for us, talking and teaching in human communities; now the Spirit speaks of God in each individual's experience.

Secondly, God lives in a fellowship and invites us into fellowship with him as well – look, there is space at the table for us! Indeed, it is Jesus' prayer in John 17 that the quality of our fellowship, our unity as a group of God's followers, will be a means of demonstrating God's loving embrace to those who don't yet know him, so that the whole world can be included.



Above all, God is bound together by love. And it is out of love that God wants us to live up to the potential he created in each one of us, to live our best lives for Him.

The following prayer is one I use almost every morning as I seek to align myself with God's best, to put myself under his flag or banner. I invite you to use it for yourselves.

May it help you each morning to come to experience more of our amazing, 3 in 1 / trinitarian God!

Good morning Heavenly Father,  
good morning Lord Jesus,  
good morning Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, I worship you  
as the creator and sustainer of the universe.  
Lord Jesus, I worship you,  
Saviour and Lord of the world.  
Holy Spirit, I worship you,  
sanctifier of the people of God.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day  
in your presence  
and please you more and more.  
Lord Jesus, I pray that this day  
I may take up my cross  
and follow you.  
Holy Spirit, I pray that this day  
you will fill me with yourself  
and cause your fruit to ripen in my life:  
love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
three persons in one God,  
have mercy upon me.

AMEN

### **Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

### **Prayers of intercession led by Philip**

We thank you for the beauty we see around in this early summer sunshine. We thank you for the abundant natural growth all around us and for the crops warmed by the sun in the fields.

We ask that you help us appreciate the natural world around us and bless those who work the land to feed us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We think of all those who will have been away on holiday over the half term period. We think of the Bishop Wilson young children - we ask that they return to school refreshed and well. We also pray for their parents and of course all the staff at the school. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord we thank you for those who give time or money to the local food banks. We ask that the food banks might continue to help those in financial need during the cost of living crisis.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those directly affected by conflict. We pray in particular for the war in Ukraine. We pray for those living in fear or who fear for their loved ones. We ask for compassion and mercy and a just resolution of the conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those grieving the loss of family or friends. Help them and comfort them as they hurt and as they feel the pain of loss.

We also pray for those known to us who are unwell. Bless them and those caring for them. Let us pause for a moment and remember those we know personally who are suffering at this time.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our vicar John and all our lay readers and those who help lead our services.

Help them as they seek to serve us and our community and to help bring us to a closer understanding of you. Encourage them that we might know and serve you in greater depth as individuals and also collectively as a church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the planning for appointing our youth worker and the ongoing appeal to us all for further financial support for the project. We ask that you will guide us to the right candidate and that you will help us all to consider how we can support their role as it evolves.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

### **Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**