



Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish Sunday 26 May 2024 – Holy Trinity Sunday

The service this morning has been prepared by
Rev Freddy De Alwis

Welcome to our service this morning.

In working together on our shared mission, we commit to seven core values:

Togetherness, Humility, Curiosity, Love, Inclusiveness, Justice, Sustainability.

Humility: we recognise we do not have all the answers but are prayerfully journeying tougher as we try to seek them.

Please join us after worship for a cup of coffee or tea.

Community time during the service is a good opportunity to ask for prayers for yourself or others. If you, or someone you know, would appreciate a visit from one of our **Pastoral Network Team**, please speak to the service leader.

Welcome and Introduction:

And so, in honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:10-11.

Hymn: [Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty](#) (65 WOV)

(Reginald Hebert)

1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
early in the morning our song of praise shall be:
Holy, holy, holy! - merciful and mighty,
God in Three persons, blessed Trinity.

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore you
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea,
cherubim and seraphim falling down before you:
you were and are, and evermore shall be!

3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide you,
though the sinful human eye
your glory may not see,
you alone are holy, there is none beside you
perfect in power, in love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty.
God in Three persons, blessed Trinity

Call To Worship – Psalm 29

Praise the Lord, you heavenly beings;
praise His glory and power.
Praise the Lord's glorious name;
bow down before the Holy One when He appears.

**The voice of the Lord is heard on the seas;
the glorious God thunders,
and His voice echoes over the ocean.**

The voice of the Lord is heard
in all its might and majesty.

**The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,
even the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes the mountains of Lebanon jump like calves
and makes Mount Hermon leap like a young bull.**

The voice of the Lord makes the lightning flash.
His voice makes the desert shake;
He shakes the desert of Kadesh.

**The Lord's voice shakes the oaks and strips the leaves from the
trees while everyone in His Temple shouts, Glory to God!**

The Lord rules over the deep waters;
He rules as King forever.

**The Lord gives strength to His people
and blesses them with peace.**

Prayer:

Hymn: [Praise to the Lord, the Almighty](#)

(28 WOW)

(Joachim Neander, 1650-80 tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78)

1. Praise to the Lord,
the almighty, the king of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
for He is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear;
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise Him in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord,
above all things so mightily reigning;
keeping us safe at his side,
and so gently sustaining
Have you not seen
all you have needed has been
met by his gracious ordaining.

3. Praise to the Lord,

who, shall prosper our work and
defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend us.
Ponder anew
What the almighty can do,
who with his love will befriend us.

4. Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
Let the 'Amen!'
sound from His people again-
gladly with praise we adore Him!

Celebrations and Notices:

Prayer of Confession and Healing:

God's love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who certainly loved us to the uttermost; Jesus - Saviour and Lord - who at His last meal with his disciples gave them – and us that new commandment - "... love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples" (John 13:34,35).

Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak ... we have failed to serve one another as Jesus served;

Merciful God forgive us and give us your spirit to love one another.

When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips and then denied him by our actions;

Merciful God forgive us and empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we look into the face of another, may the face of God be reflected in our eyes. May we know that our sins are forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

(455 WOV)

(Mary Elizabeth Byrne)

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art,
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2. Be Thou my Wisdom, Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee, Thou with me Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Be Thou my battle-shield, sword for the fight,
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower;
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

5. High King of heaven, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all. Amen

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2 & 24-31

Second Reading: John 1:1-14

Reflection: "*Holy Trinity of Godhead*"

Trinity Sunday Biblical Reflection 2024
Genesis 1:1-2 & 24-31, John 1:1-14

Introduction

God has a Divine Nature, which is beyond all human understanding, but Theologians and Biblical scholars try to explain the nature of the Trinity in many ways.

As an introduction I want to introduce you to **Quintus Septimius Tertullian**, known in church history as the father of Latin theology because he was the first church leader to write his works in Latin.

However, Tertullian was an African church father. 160-225. Among his greatest contributions to Christian theology were his thoughts toward the foundation of the Trinitarian formula, and the first person to use the word Trinity to describe the Godhead.

THE TRINITY IN SCRIPTURE

The nature of the Trinity is so difficult to understand that God chose to reveal His Trinitarian nature to people gradually.

In the OT the first hint to God as a Trinity is in the book of Genesis, chapter 1, the story of creation, Then God said, 'And now **WE** will make human beings; they will be like us (image) and resemble us, Vs 26a', '**Let us**' meaning the first-person plural forms. Here the Father is referred to as "God", the Son is referred to in each phrase "God **Said**" or proclaimed word – **LOGOS**, because the Son is also known as the "Word of God" John's Gospel 1: 1-3 and it was by "speaking" that God created. In Psalm 33 the psalmist writes: "He spoke: and it came to be". e.g. Even in Buddhism, the concept of 'word' as ultimate truth = In Buddhism; It is call Dhamma= word = teaching (in Pali). **Buddha, Dhamma & Sanga** so it calls triple-gem.

The Holy Spirit is referred to in Gen 1:2b," the Spirit of God was hovering or floating over the waters". In Genesis (1: 26) God says "**Let us** make human beings in **our** own image, in the likeness of **ourselves**" which seems to point to God's Trinitarian nature because otherwise God would have possibly said "**I will make human beings in my image**".

There are many more examples we can take in this nature. Let us see some NT e.g.

- Angel Gabriel in Luke 1: 35. He said to her "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you: so the holy child to be born of you will be called the Son of God".
- The next revelation of the Trinity in the New Testament is at the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan by John the Baptist (Mark 1: 10-11) where the "Heavens opened and the Spirit descending on Him like a Dove: and a voice came from Heaven saying, 'You are My Beloved Son'."
- John's Gospel, especially chapters 14, 15, 16 and 17, Jesus speaks a lot about the relationships between the Father, Himself and the Holy Spirit.
- JC tells Philip (John14: 9) "He who has seen Me has seen the Father". Earlier in John 10: 30 He said, "The Father and I are one."

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of both the Father and of the Son and He was equally sent by both the Father and the Son John 14: 16 "I will ask the Father and **He will give** you another Counsellor (the Holy Spirit) to be with you for ever" and John 15: 26 "when the Counsellor comes, whom **I will send to you** from the Father, the Spirit of truth." Jesus is showing that **both** the Father and the Son would send the Holy Spirit because He is the Spirit equally of both of them.

THE SON OF GOD

The Son of God is the Second Person of the Trinity and He is called the “**Eternal Wisdom of God**” and the **Word** of God”. This event is called the “Incarnation”. Christ means Emmanuel “God with us” to show us how to be HUMAN! (Philippians 2:6-8.)

John called Him the “**Word** of God”. Here the “**Word**” here has much greater meaning than our human understanding of “word” but it is still connected with it. “Word” here comes from the Greek word “**LOGOS**” which can be translated as the “**Mind**” of God. Our human words come from our store of knowledge in our Mind and they express our thoughts, we “think” in “words”. Our words allow us to communicate our “thoughts” and God's “**Word**” allows Him to communicate His “Thoughts”.

His “Thoughts” give life and existence to creatures! God's thoughts and words come from His Eternal “Knowledge” in His “Mind”. The “Word of God” is called the “Mind” of God. The “Mind” of God is where God “Thinks”, “Imagines” or “Knows”. God's “**Word**” expresses God's “Thoughts”. The “**Word of God** is alive and active” - as the letter to the Hebrews, (4:12) says “and **He** makes creatures live.” Therefore, JC is Gods reviled “mind” and the proclaimed “word”.

The HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH

For us and the church, the feast of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit is not only an annual event to celebrate, but also a time to consider the place of the **Holy Spirit in our own lives and in the life of our church**. The Holy Spirit is the **creative power of God** and the **motor of change**.

The figure of the Holy Spirit, is always marginalized or forgotten in the Church. The Holy Spirit is the **creative power of God** and the **motor of change**.

- **Gen.1:2**, Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- **Ezekiel. 37:2b**, Son of man can these bones live?
- Church came to be as an Act of the Holy Spirit, (the growth and expansion of the church). The Church became visible on Pentecost.

It's easy to criticize the church as a deeply divided organization and say that the church has lost the mission of Christ. But the institutionalization of the Jesus movement was both inevitable and necessary. **Nothing happens without Spirit-inspired people, but nothing lasts without institutions.** Spirit inspired people need to be organised. That is where the need for an institution arises.

So, the individuals inspired by the Holy Spirit formed an institution – the church was born.

The church must be in God's control with the Holy Spirit constantly inspiring and renewing the people. That is the manifestation of Pentecost.

Let us come back to the Holy Trinity, now the question is, do you understand the Trinity? Or have I managed to confuse you? If you do not understand, then be happy, because it is a mystery, beyond human comprehension.

So, to summarise we can say that each of the Three Persons of the Trinity has

- a Divine Will,
- a Divine Knowledge and
- Divine Love.

Perhaps the Divine Will in each of Them is the Presence of the Father, Divine Knowledge is the Presence of the Son, and the Divine Love is the Presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said (see John 10: 38), “the Father is in Me and I am in the Father”.

It is through the Spirit that we are enabled to respond to the invitation to share in the communion that is in the very being of God. So, finally Paul concluded in his second letter to the Corinthians the classic formula of blessing in the name of the Holy Trinity, which we Christians repeat ever since:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. – 2 Corinthians 13:13

The prayer for “the grace”, “the love”, and “the communion” or fellowship or sharing has the same intention at each point, that is, that we will be included in the relationships that exist within God, the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen, thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People & Intercessory Prayers:

Hymn: [Prayer of Intercession](#)

(Lyrics: Jan Chamberlin, Tune: St Anne)

1. I pray for all the sad and ill,
the lonely and distressed:
I ask for them to know your care
and with your grace be blessed.
2. I pray for those in other lands
where poverty is rife:
I ask for them the help they need
to have a better life.
3. I pray for rulers of the world
that they may truly lead:
and concentrate their minds
to help
their citizens in need.

4. I pray for those who mourn
the loss
of family or friends:
that they may find your healing
strength,
your love that never ends.

5. And now I pray for me,
dear Lord,
that I may love and give:
in truth and grace to spend
my days,
and in your service live.

Lord's Prayer:

Greeting of Peace:

Lord Jesus Christ, in your tenderness, bind us with bonds of love that cannot be broken.

My brothers and sisters, the peace of Christ be with you.

And with you also.

Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

Hymn: [Now To Your Table Spread](#)

(AA 100)

1. Now to your table spread we come, each one, in faith
that you alone provide the words of life and death:
in wine and bread, in promised food
we find your loving heart, O God.

2. Hands of the world stretch out, your mystery to touch
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
to sing in joy, to cry in grief,
to know your meaning for our life.

3. Here is our common wealth in sharing what is good,
as though all humankind around one table stood,
this bread to break, this wine to taste –
one people in the name of Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

With all your people in heaven and on earth we give you thanks, Holy Father, for Jesus Christ, through whom all things are made; who in the fullness of time became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth; who in obedience suffered death on the cross, and was raised in triumph that we might have life. Therefore, we worship and praise you saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest; Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

Preparation and Breaking of the Bread (People may sit)

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread.

Having blessed it, He broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is my body which is given for you".

In the same way Jesus took the wine, and having given thanks for it, He poured it out and gave the cup to His disciples, saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood".

In sharing this bread and wine we remember the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who shared his life with the poor, the oppressed, the one who lived, was crucified, and raised to new life in God.

In sharing this bread and wine

we commit ourselves again to follow Jesus in the way of the cross,

to share His pain and His joy,

and to claim the promise of new life for the entire creation.

In sharing this bread and wine

we celebrate the faith that gives us life and hope,

we celebrate the journey we begin with one another this day,

a journey of mutual understanding and companionship,

and we commit ourselves to reflect in the life of the Church today

the presence we know in the breaking of bread. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit, touch this bread and this cup

that we might find food and drink for our faith journey. **Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Wine:

By the sharing of this bread and wine,

May we bring each other into fullness of life. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Gracious God, we give you thanks for satisfying our hungry hearts with this holy meal shared in the Spirit with Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

Strengthened and refreshed, as we go from here to continue his work in the world, through our faithful witness and loving service.

This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: [This, This Is The God We Adore](#) (153 WOV)

1. This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable friend;
Whose love is as great as his power,
And neither knows measure nor end.

2. 'Tis Jesus the first and the last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise him for all that is past,
And trust him for all that's to come.

Benediction and Grace:

Be blessed in the name of God
Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
one God forever and ever. Amen.

Let us greet one another with grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all forever.
Amen Amen Amen.**