

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE

7 June 2020—Trinity Sunday

Trinity in Humanity. Thus as people we reflect the One who made us. Built into our createdness is the capacity to know and respond to God as he fully is—Father, Son and Spirit. When the Psalmist asks the question, ‘what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?’, and the special position of honour that God has given us over his creation, the answer is only made clear through worship: ‘Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!’ God has invested himself, planted his seed within us, both through our original creation and now through our redemption. The connection that God has with us is unique. Why would he send his Son to the cross otherwise? Why would he enter into our humanity unless we mattered to him? A relationship with God in his fullness—as Father, Son and Spirit—helps us to both better comprehend and understand our humanity and his Trinity.

Trinity in Community. The verses from Matthew 28 and 2 Corinthians 13 which begin and end our worship this morning explicitly place the Trinity within the context of the body of people, the kingdom community, that God is building. One of the better definitions of the church I have heard is ‘the body of the baptised’, those who in obedience to Christ have been baptised into the triune life—Father, Son and Spirit—and who are committed to building the community by baptising and teaching others

to follow Jesus too. Those who are members of this body will do everything they can with God’s help to maintain good relationships between each other, to encourage one another, be of one mind, and live in peace. Being a member of the church, the Community of the Trinity, is as at least one writer has said (Paul Fiddes), ‘Participating in God.’ Being a member of the church, a Christian, is not just something we are but also something we do. We take part. We are actively involved. Just as God the Father and God the Son are active in our lives through God the Spirit!

SUGGESTED SONG

To God Be The Glory
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD_9P9DB4pw

BLESSING

The Blessing
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl3mNj5U>

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you... May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(2 Corinthians 13:11-12,14)

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Dear Friends,

The Sunday following Pentecost is traditionally set aside as Trinity Sunday. After the celebration of the sending of the promised Spirit to the infant church in Jerusalem, it is appropriate to reflect on the relationship between Father God, his Son our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who is now part of the living experience of those first disciples—and also ours! We would be wrong to spend too much time trying to get our brain cells around the Trinity in order to fully understand what it is all about. Thinking about God can sometimes make our heads hurt, trying to make sense of things beyond our comprehension. And yet God in his generosity and grace has come to us in ways that we can grasp if we but open our hearts to him.

Rather than trying to work out what it means that God can be One and Three at the same time, we are better off looking at the Trinity as three ways that God reveals himself to us: as our loving heavenly creator Father, through his Son our Lord Jesus Christ, and now in these post-Ascension and Pentecost days through the presence of his Holy Spirit bringing the love of the Father and the person of Jesus alive to us in ways that we can

know and which can transform our lives. You may hear people say that Trinity is not in the Bible, but that is wrong. The word ‘trinity’ may not be there, but the close relationship and cooperation between Father, Son and Spirit are there right through Scripture, as this morning’s readings clearly show.

Trinity is our theme today as we meet online via Zoom for our Sunday Morning Fellowship Meeting at 10.30am. Our online Monday Prayer Meeting is at 7.00pm. If you are able to join us, you will be very welcome. Don’t forget that if you are reading this sheet on your computer or device you can also click on the readings and songs, and that you will find many other helpful and fascinating links at <https://rydebaptist.xyz>

CALL TO WORSHIP

‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ (Matthew 28:18-20)

BIBLE READINGS

[Genesis 1:1-2:4](#)

[Psalm 8](#)

[2 Corinthians 13:11-14](#)

SUGGESTED SONGS

Here I Am To Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXg2ztge8f0>

Holy Holy Holy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgHrNNM23p8>

PRAYER

Almighty God, we enter into your presence this morning—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—in awe and wonder and worship in response to who you are and what you have done for us. You have created us to be the people we are and given us the precious gift of life; you have shown us the way to live and given up your life that we might live life to the full; you have filled us with your life, your love, your power. You have taken us from how we were, and transformed us into all that you had planned from the very beginning. Keep us in tune with your Word and in step with your Spirit we pray, and may it be that our lives shine like the Son and reflect your glory. This we pray in the name of the One who was, who is, and who is to come—who has saved, healed, restored and delivered us to eternal life. Amen.

TO PONDER

When we think of God as Trinity, the Three in One, there are many images or pictures that come to mind. Perhaps 3-in-1 Oil is the least helpful, although our lives do need regular lubrication, cleaning and protection. An Egg, with its shell, yolk and white might help us to get our minds around it more; as might Water, which exists in three states as a solid (ice), a liquid, and a gas (steam). One of my favourites is to look at pure white light as being a combination of the three primary colours of light—green, red and blue—and the way each of those colours can remind us of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This image is used extensively in Natural Church Development (NCD) which we have looked at in the past and will return to again. In the Celtic tradition there is the Triquetra which is a design of a single strand that makes a knot that has three points. It can be simple or complex, but when you follow the lines of the knot, like a maze, you discover that there is no end. All these images when combined can be really powerful. Yet the picture that sticks most in my mind is the story in the gospels of Jesus' baptism. As John the Baptist raises Jesus out of the water the heavens open, the Spirit descends on Jesus like a dove, and the voice of the Father proclaims that Jesus is his beloved Son. Baptism continues to be a powerful statement of the Trinity

in action. It demonstrates our relationship with God the Father who loves us, his Son our Saviour into whose death and resurrection life we enter, and the Spirit who enables and guarantees our eternity. Birth, rebirth and eternal life!

TIME OF PRAYER

Take time reflecting on your relationship with God as he reveals himself to you. Respond to God as your Father, to Jesus as your Saviour, to the Spirit as your helper. Remember your baptism and what that meant and continues to mean to you. If you have not been baptised, pray about why Jesus calls us to be baptised, why being baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is so very important. Ask God to take you on the next step of your baptism journey, either to renew that commitment or to make the commitment for the first time. (Now might be a good time for a conversation with a close Christian friend outside your household or with your minister.) Then turn to the many other matters for thought and prayer in this week's 7/52.

SUGGESTED SONGS

Above All Powers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7EPZV56PuA>

Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMBDWG9tseU>

MINI-SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction. Today's theme is huge. It takes in the vastness of the universe at one extreme, and causes us to consider who we are as human beings at the other. In between we have cause to think about who God is and how we fit into the world that God has created.

Trinity in Creativity. We are so privileged that our Bible starts with the greatest worship song ever. It may appear to be written in prose, yet the lyrical metre of each verse calls out to us like the universe singing a love song to its creator. It stands out as unique over other creation stories from around the world. It talks of One God, and it tells of all that they have done. There is no pantheon of gods here, yet from the beginning we see the One God as both singular and plural, both 'I' and 'we'. The Father Creator is here bringing all things into being; the Spirit of God is here overseeing all that is happening; the Word of God (who will in due season become flesh, as we learn in John 1:1-18) utters the first recorded and most significant of all words: 'Let there be light.' As each piece of creation is put into place, it all happens just as God speaks, until it reaches a great crescendo at the end of day six: Then God said, 'let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness... So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female...'