

We are the church.

Sunday 7th June – Trinity Sunday



Notices:

ISingPop - Excellent Resource for Family: if you have children or grandchildren at Primary School they may enjoy this [YouTube channel](#). It's fun, engaging content to help your children explore their faith. (I have worked with them on several occasions and they are really good). Their latest content looks at "[Love](#)".

Foodbank: please use the supermarket collection points while the church office is closed, and our movement is limited. Also, donations can be made direct to [Gloucester Foodbank](#), through their [Giving Page](#).

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In the name of the Father,
And of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Grace, mercy and peace
From God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all – wherever we are.

Sing: *(click on the song title and it should open up and play in youtube)*

Breath on me Breath of God

Gathering our thoughts, we remember and confess:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said;
The first commandment is this;
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only
Lord. You shall love the Lord your God
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your
Mind, and with all your strength.'
The second is this, 'Love your neighbour
as yourself.' There is no other commandment
greater than these. On these two commandments
hang all the law and the prophets.

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Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

May God who loved the world so much
That he sent his Son to be our Saviour
Forgive us our sins
And make us holy to serve him in the world,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Take a few moments to sit and think about receiving that unconditional offering of grace.

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.

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Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 - The Commissioning of the Disciples

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped 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."

A message from Gordon Clifford...

Today is Trinity Sunday and it is an occasion within the Christian Year which invites us to think about the very nature of God himself – as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God has revealed us to himself in three ways. There are not three separate Gods. Rather God is like the stem of the plant which has revealed his glory by producing three leaves. Each leaf has its own identity but draws its life and strength from the stem.

Today I invite you to join with me in reflecting upon the threefold nature of God by considering some of the attributes of the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And for ease of memory, each begins with the letter "P".

For the first attribute, we may liken God the Father to the Producer. He has produced all that is. He has brought everything into being.

Firstly, he planned it. Then he produced it. He is like a master craftsman who has constructed the world. Each and every piece of it has been fashioned by him. He conceived the ideas. He planned them. Then he produced the finished articles. He is Father of all. He is productive.

He brought the worlds to birth and launched the stars into space. His mind conceived the galaxies and his hands formed the earth.

Yet God did more than just produce the world. He did not create it and then left it lifeless, rigid, as a collection of artefacts or as an assembly of finished products waiting upon a shelf for a customer who never comes.

For besides being a planner and producer, God has acted as a Father. He produced not a series of snapshots, but he made a movie! He produced a world of life and movement. His production is not static, but is alive with life.

Besides being a producer, the Father is a poet and he has brought beauty and rhythm. His handiwork is expressive and points to truth beyond what is made. Just as a pot may tell us something about the potter, and just as a poem may speak at more than one level, so the creation of the world points to the fatherhood of its producer. So the heavens themselves declare the glory of God.

He is the one who made all, who watches over his handiwork, who cherishes his production and who loves his world.

For the second attribute, we may liken God to our Pattern for living.

God the Father loves his world. When he saw that the world was in great need, he sent his own Son into the world to show us the way of God and to lead us back to the Father's fold.

Jesus Christ came as the Son of God. He came to show us God. "He who has seen me has seen the Father" he said to Philip (John c14 v9b)

That did not mean Jesus was a physical resemblance of God the father. What it did mean was that Jesus had come to represent God to the people. God was with him and God was in him. He came

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to do the Father's will, and when and where the will of God is done then God is near. Jesus did the will of God and showed the fullest measure of God's purpose that men and women have ever seen. His was a life willing both to minister to individuals on a personal level and to challenge the systems which perpetuated their condition. Such is God's way. Jesus showed it. He calls us to follow him because he is the Way. In other words, Jesus is our Pattern. If we imitate him then we will live in God's way. If we place our feet in the marks of his footsteps, then we will be walking along the path of life. Jesus came to show us the ways of God and the way to God. He came as our guide and our pattern for living.

For the third attribute of God we may liken him to Power.

The Holy Spirit came to his disciples on the Day of Pentecost which we celebrated last Sunday (May 31st). He came to empower them. The Holy Spirit is God's power given to rest upon his people, to abide with them and to be their strength.

The Holy Spirit came to Peter, James and John, and to the others, and galvanised them ready for action. Where as they were weak, now they became strong. Where as they had felt inadequate, now they became confident. Where as they had been nervous, now they became bold. Where as they had been apprehensive, now their fear turned into brave people who became bearers of the good news. In the power of the Holy Spirit they proclaimed the Gospel. They preached of the purposes of God, of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and of the coming of the Holy Spirit. And they called for people to respond by repenting of their sin, by accepting the Gospel and by belonging to the company of those who believed.

Their work was powerful and persuasive. People heard their message and the responded positively to it. The church came into being – and has remained so ever since.

God has power to changes people's lives for the better. He has the power to overcome evil and to replace it with goodness. He has power to overcome hatred and to replace it with love. He has power to defeat enmity and to replace it with brotherly concord and sisterly affection. He has power to overcome anger and rage, and to replace them with patience and goodwill.

God has the power to change lives for the better through the message of the Gospel. He has the power to transform people and society. He accomplishes this through the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all who are open to him and are receptive of him.

God is not impotent but powerful to bring change, powerful to bring renewal, powerful to bring people into a new life, powerful to bring his purposes to birth and to fruition. The Holy Spirit is the power of God at work in the church and in the world.

God has planned the world and brought everything, including us, into being.

He is our producer who watches over us as a father. His Son came to show us the way. Jesus Christ is the One for us to imitate. He is the pattern for our living. The mission given to us all by Jesus is to become sensitive to the world around us, to the love of God which is our inheritance, by developing lives of loving relationships within our local community. We bring that message of love where it is needed most by being a rainbow of hope to someone who is downhearted, lonely, suffering from depression or Covid-19.

The love of God also shines when we share what we have with the needy or set time aside to listen to the concerns of our children. The Trinity is a celebration of the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who are so closely bonded to each other that they become perfectly one, while remaining distinct persons. Human love is a mirror of such love.

The Holy Spirit came to enliven and invigorate, to inspire and to uplift his people. He is God's power at work in the world.

Producer, Pattern and Power. *They are not in opposition, but in harmony. They belong together and are held together. They are bound in a unity of love and fellowship.*

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Producer, Pattern and Power – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – one God to be blessed and adored for ever and ever. Amen.

Sing: (*click on the song title and it should open up and play in youtube*)

Lord of Light of your Love

Let us declare our faith with confidence:

Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
for by his will they were created
and have their being.

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.

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We pray for the world, the church, and for our family, friends & our neighbour's:

For the health and well-being of our nation: we thank you for all those whom you have protected from the Coronavirus and we pray that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry.

We pray for all those who are putting themselves at an increased risk to care for others: for the carers at Millbrook Lodge, Brockworth House, Doctors surgeries and pharmacies.

We also pray for those in our local schools: Brockworth Primary Academy, Castle Hill Primary School, Coopers Edge School and Henley Bank High School.

Heavenly Father would you increase your spirit in these places that all that go through these places would both know and experience your peace and hope, keep all those who work there protected.

For the isolated and housebound: we pray that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them with our words and prayers and actions in their vulnerability.

Protect, support and sustain all those working in our local hospitals, care homes and pharmacies, and their families. Give them the peace, strength and comfort they need at the moment to treat and nurse for all those in their care.

Think of a situation or region in the world that needs to see justice. Pray for the leaders and the people to be united to find peace with justice.

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

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We pray with confidence as our saviour has taught us:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Sing: (*click on the song title and it should open up and play in youtube*)

May the Grace of Christ our Saviour

Have a look at what beautiful worship we can create when we come together ...

The UK Blessing – Churches sing “The Blessing”

Numbers 6:24-26 *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

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Until we can come together in worship & witness be strong in the Lord & in his mighty power . (Eph6:10)

– **AMEN?**

I would love to hear from you about what is inspiring you in your faith at the moment: have you seen, heard or watch something which completely captivated you and made you wonder at the height, depth, and breadth of our Father and his Kingdom slowly being unveiled around us.