

Trinity Sunday 7th June 2020

Song: How great is our God - Chris Tomlin

Welcome to Everyone

Today we meet together, wherever we are, for Trinity Sunday's Service of Holy Communion. We celebrate the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Special thanks to Jackie Cook, who has prepared the Prayers for today. We've just heard that Jackie's Reader Ministry Licence has finally been transferred to Watton and Threxton, so "Welcome to Jackie", until we can officially gather to do so in person. Already many of you will have met Jackie worshipping with us at St Mary's, before lockdown.

Thank you, Kyla for singing the Gloria and collecting the poems and readings which people sent in focussing on the Trinity, which appear at the end of this Service and on the website.

We say together as an Opening Prayer, the Collect for Trinity

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with 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. Amen

Introduction

At the heart of The Trinity, the Godhead of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is connectedness. Three different forms, but interconnected as the one, true God. Many, people throughout the generations have tried to explain what this means. It's good to remember that this is a supernatural mystery, beyond our human understanding. Added to which, its meaning is complicated by means of the translation and interpretation of evolving language, in the predominating cultures we inhabit.

Keith Ward (described as 'Champion of the Faith'), was a Professor at King's College, London in 1984. He wrote the book 'The Living God', thinking about God as having three distinct, but complementary images or aspects.

Firstly, he suggests that there is the image of God, who has created the universe to function within parameters, both for its very existence and re-creational ability. Within that creation, God has made mankind to have free choice, yet having a connectedness with everything, both within the whole creation and with God Himself. Therefore, the world in which we live is a place, **potentially**, of health, everlasting beauty and harmony and home for all of God's creation. God is the Creator and the Father of everything and everyone.

Keith Ward continues that, secondly, Jesus Christ is the human aspect of the Trinity, primarily God's self-expressing, self-giving, redeeming love, in the form of His one and only Son. Within Christ, The Word at the beginning of Creation, resides the whole history of God's revelation to his people, his expectation by them and the fulfilment of God's coming together completely, with his people.

As a child is birthed, there is a separation, yet a connectedness which can never be denied. Its belonging is indisputably within its DNA. The development of the Church is **as the community, the family of God, with God's DNA**. The Church is continually building its existence, both through the remembrance of, and the re-presenting and re-experiencing of Jesus Christ's presence and activity this very day, as the Saviour of humankind. Last week there was the hard-hitting, yet deeply touching programme on the television, about the Foundlings; babies abandoned soon after birth, who had no name, no knowledge of their parents or true identity. Yet, their DNA led to a discovery about who they, recognisably, really were. The four people the programme focussed on, chose to cling on to the tenuous details they had, such was their desire for connection with their parenting. In the Christian family, we choose to be connected; to be identified with the God of the Universe, and Father of all humankind. When we do, we recognise our shared personhood with God and the rest of humanity. We appreciate more fully of being reorientated towards the world of nature round us. This has happened for some of us during this time of Lockdown.

The church re-creates, through the compelling love of the Holy Spirit abiding in his people, as they long to pass on to others the truth and knowledge of what they have experienced, resulting in ever stronger connectedness. So, to the third aspect of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit was 'hovering over the waters' says the first verse of the first chapter of Genesis, describing the Creation, in the first book of the Holy Bible.

The Holy Spirit is the image of God who, in the biblical tradition, inspires the prophets, the writing and the interpreting of Scripture and which the great works of art try to visualise. The Holy Spirit is the breath of God, breathing life into every living being. The Holy Spirit is the One who even today hovers over us, waiting for response from our human hearts and minds, to his own redeeming, renewing presence, which alone we believe makes us whole.

We believe that God is a total reality in our human lives. In this challenging world today, we find ourselves up against a virus spread by breath, which we cannot see. No one can touch or predict its cruel behaviour. By contrast, the indwelling breath of the Holy Spirit is loving, healing, empowering and life-giving, under God's control alone. This past week our hearts have been broken by the cries of George Floyd in Minnesota: "I can't breathe". We need breath for life. The power of the Holy Spirit lives in us and breathes into us life to develop our individual characters and personalities. Yet, there is so much more potential for our fulfilment as human beings, than we have experienced so far, if we only, echoing the words of the opening prayer, allow our connectedness to the Trinity to **enlarge our minds with knowledge of His truth and draw us more deeply into the mystery of His love, that we may truly worship Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.** Amen.

Hymn: All creatures of our God and King

God the Trinity and God the Father

Reading: John 14: 1 – 10

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for

you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know^[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Talk Part 1

In these verses, Jesus explains to the disciples that they are not to be afraid. There are four points that stand out to me.

One: Jesus explains before even mentioning here his death, that he is going ahead to get the place ready for them to join him in his Father’s house. Often in the stories of Jesus, others are ahead of him sometimes in a house, making preparations and awaiting his arrival. We recall:

Simeon and Anna waiting, prepared for the fulfilment of prophecy at Jesus’s presentation at Candlemas

In his ministry, Jesus often arrived when already people were waiting to receive him in their homes for teaching or to heal

At the death of Lazarus, the people waited. Jesus timed his arrival sometimes to be after death had happened and he raised from the dead, as he demonstrated life and faith in His Father

The disciples went ahead to prepare in a room a place for the Last Supper

The disciples were waiting after Jesus’s resurrection in the room where he appeared to them

The disciples were ready together, when they first received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

He told them not to be afraid....

Two, Jesus gives them confidence by explaining he is ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life’ to the Father.

Three, Jesus builds on this by saying anyone who has seen him, has seen the Father. They are one.

Four, he reminds them how he is one with God. The Father is living in him. Jesus comes from the Father and is working through him.

This demonstrates the connectedness of God, the Creator, the heavenly Father, reaching out to his people who will receive him, through his Son Jesus and by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The disciples were not to be afraid, but to trust in **one God with three images or aspects.**

We might find our personal connection to God through Him as the Creator of the natural world, brought close to us through Charlie's Wild Church Reflections. Or, we may identify with God as Father, or connect through the redeeming love of Jesus Christ on the cross, or the infilling and overflowing of the Holy Spirit. We'll hear more about those second and third aspects of the Trinity later.

I believe whichever way we become connected and explore or open ourselves to belief in God, this doesn't diminish our relationship, or limit our experience. Maybe, as the unique individuals we are, we find our connectedness differently, just as we approach worship differently. Our culture, our age, our experience and, if we have one, our church background, may draw us to worship with different emphases. Sometimes people give greater substance to their way into faith through their connecting with one of the aspects of the Trinity. God's parts are equally important, as part of the One Godhead. He knows us and we may trust that as we respond to his love, all parts of his person are revealed. We come to understand faith more fully, as we draw closer, to God's whole self. And we're not to be afraid.

Preparation for Confession

If you love me, you will obey what I command.....He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.

Confession

Father, you come to meet us when we turn to you and return to you:

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace:

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

May the Father forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us
to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days. **Amen.**

Peruvian Gloria (led by Revd Kyla)

Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Father.

**Echo: Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Father.**

To him be glory for ever.

Echo: To him be glory for ever

Alleluia! Amen.
Alleluia! Amen.
Alleluia! Amen

Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father,
*Echo: Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father*

To him be glory for ever.
Echo: To him be glory for ever.
Alleluia! Amen.
Alleluia! Amen.
Alleluia! Amen

Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory Holy Spirit.
*Echo: Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory Holy Spirit.*

To him be glory for ever.
Echo: To him be glory for ever.
Alleluia! Amen.
Alleluia! Amen.
Alleluia! Amen.

God the Trinity and Jesus the Son

John 14: 21 – 24

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Talk Part 2

My connection with faith in the Trinity, was firstly through the love of God the Father, which overflows from these verses. I felt the acceptance and the warmth of the Father, which I longed for. On a cold, dark, wet January night, the words of the prophet Isaiah chapter 43 declared by the Baptist Church Minister were both calming my fears and exciting my hopes: **“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”**

It was during the service which led up to the distribution of the Lord's Supper, that I realised that just as my shortcomings had mounted up within me, as they were repeatedly verbalised, so my self-esteem had fallen away. I could bring this to God, confess my own fears, by placing them at the foot of the cross and receive his forgiveness and acceptance. It was all paid for, by the crucified Lord Jesus. I was cleared and cleansed and cloaked with God's redeeming love. This meant that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, I was reborn, saved, to be alive for evermore with the Father and my Lord.

I had been to various churches and the last message I'd heard several months before was so crushing, that it made me run. I was disconnected from God's love. My reconnection was first and foremost through the love of the Father, who'd held me in his embrace since my birth, but with whom I needed to go deeper. That meant being connected with the Jesus aspect of God, through the Holy Spirit, to become one with the whole, holy Godhead.

At one and the same time I realised that, though intensely personal, this connection was for the world: light instead of darkness, freeing and life-giving rebirth for all and I wanted to others to know too. First and foremost, from the stamp of God on my DNA, my connection with other people would always be reaching out to all, with his love and acceptance for all.

Song: Saviour of the world – Cantelon

God the Trinity and the Holy Spirit

Reading: John 14: 12 – 17, 26

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^[c] in you.

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Talk part 3

The third, but equal part of the Trinity, is the Holy Spirit. Former Archbishop Rowan Williams was speaking to clergy last Tuesday, through a Zoom gathering online. He referred to the Holy Spirit as the part of God that connects us to Him, when we've been disconnected through the disorientation of pain and suffering and sinfulness. As mentioned earlier, I'd experienced this myself. Prayerful union and reunion comes through openness to the Holy Spirit. The distinctive Christian Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, which we'll say together later, Archbishop Rowan says brings us to kneel where God

stands, to be whatever we are made to be. Part of what the Holy Spirit gives is a sharing of vision in community with each other.

In his book 'The Lion's World, a journey into the heart of Narnia', Archbishop Rowan describes the author of the Narnia books, C S Lewis, as **not shrinking from showing us the painful death of the lion, Aslan, who is inspired by the historical bible story of the person of Jesus Christ.** C S Lewis described how **'the vehicles of faith or trust can become empty, and worse; how it is necessary to hold on to what may feel like – at best – a deeply uncertain vision, haunted by all the ingenious ways in which it can be distorted and turned into falsehood. In Narnia, with the death of Aslan, the children in the story must allow Aslan to help them step beyond their fears to the Truth, revealed through the Holy Spirit, which is also named 'The Comforter'.**

Wm Paul Young's novel 'The Shack' is a tragic story of the disappearance of a small child. Ironically, millions were being sold about the very same time thirteen years ago, when Madeleine McCann disappeared and that story is now back in our news. We hope and pray for an outcome to the traumatic journey, which that and the German family have been travelling.

In the novel, the three aspects of God take on forms which speak. Humanly speaking there was a terrible end for the child. God is known as Papa, who addresses the father of the child, Mackenzie: **"You try to make sense of the world in which you lived, based on a very small and incomplete picture of reality. It's like looking at a parade, through the tiny knothole of hurt, pain, self-centredness and power, and believing you are on your own and insignificant. All of these contain powerful lies.**

You see pain and death as ultimate evils and God as the ultimate betrayer, or perhaps, at best, as fundamentally untrustworthy. You dictate the terms and judge my actions and find me guilty. The real underlying flaw in your life is that you don't think I am good. If you knew I was good and that everything – the means, the ends and all the processes of individual lives – is all covered by my goodness, then, while you might not always understand what I am doing, you would trust me. But you don't".

Papa explained "We want to share with you the love and joy and freedom and light that we already know within ourself. We created you, the human, to be in face-to-face relationship with us, to join our circle of love." From 'The Shack' pg 124 – 126 ISBN 978 0 340 97949 5.

This is put another way by 'The Doctrine Commission 1986-89 of the Church of England' in the book 'We believe in the Holy Spirit' (ISBN 0 7151 3732 8): **"the Spirit's work remains coherent and self-consistent and does not undermine or contradict what the Spirit has already achieved. While the future disclosed by the Spirit therefore outstrips all present conceiving or imagining, this future will not be at variance with those first instalments of the Spirit, which in Christ we already have received".** The Apostle Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians chapter 2: **'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, God has prepared for those who love him. God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God".**

Thank you very much to all those who sent in poems and readings, which mean a lot to them focussing on the Trinity. Please reflect on them while some quiet music is playing at the end of the service. Thank you.

Dear God, please allow our connectedness to the Trinity to **enlarge our minds with 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. Amen.**

Please join in with saying the Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made all things?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust I his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

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

Song: Jesus be the Centre, as a Prayer leading into the Prayers

Prayers prepared by Licensed Lay Minister Jackie Cook

The response to Holy Trinity, in your mercy, is:

hear our prayer.

Holy Trinity, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

God the Father, we pray for your world:

We bring to you all nation leaders and all in authority. May they have the willingness to remove the poverty of thoughts that wound people. Help them to listen that enables their actions to cross from injustice towards well-being.

We give thanks for the scientists around the world. Praying their combined knowledge and increased technology brings treatment and a vaccine.

Your world seems full of steep cliffs and weathered stones. Through the pains and sufferings, the fears and uncertainties, may people come to know your presence embodies the whole of creation.

Holy Trinity, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God the Son, we pray for your people:

For those who are lost, lonely and suffering illnesses, bring comfort. For those who struggle to feed themselves, bring nourishment. For all vulnerable people regardless of age, gender or colour, bring hope.

Reach out to those whose life nears the end. With thanksgiving we pray for all who have died. Help those who mourn come to know they rest in peace.

We pray through these challenging times for our own nation. Guide us into the trust of making sacrifices that moves us to be more fully aware of our actions. Help people bring a balance that restores confidence that allows all to see you touching every moment of our lives.

Praying for St Mary's and the Watton community. We give thanks for the blessings that Churches Together bring us. Grant us a share of your grace that gives us hearts to never forget the past, but allows a vision for fresh revelation.

We pray for all working within the NHS, Hospices and Care Homes. May each person in the Medical team, nurses, cleaners and kitchen staff and all workers within this field of caring feel valued. Especially lift to you the times they feel the pressure and tensions rising.

Praying for all workers, those still furloughed and those now unemployed. Give to them the strength that comes with perseverance that they maintain a sense of hope.

Holy Trinity, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God the Holy Spirit, we pray:

May we feel you blowing throughout the world. Illuminating places of lost hope. That through your shining light we are given insights in the way of love and tolerance. Open our eyes to see you more clearly. Open our ears to listen to your voice. Open our hearts to become seeds of hopefulness.

Through the breath, the height and depth of your presence may we become more aware of how Christ Jesus is revealed in our lives. How His teachings shape us like a potter's wheel. How His examples cut across the poverty of nature. Bring us to understanding we may venture out with confidence to be healing bridges.

Holy Trinity, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

In this troubled world, which is searching and waiting, may the dance of the Trinity move between us with the radiant light of the brightness of the moon and star filled heavens, so that lives may resonate with you, today and always.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, our saviour Lord and friend, through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Peace

John 14 v 27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

The peace of God be always with you

All: And also with you.

Song: From the Inside out

The Holy Communion

The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;

in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away

you did not reject us,

but came to meet us in your Son.

All: You embraced us as your children

and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All: He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**All: Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**All: Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All: As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We say together The Lord's Prayer:

**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 for ever.
Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The body of Christ given for us. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for us. **Amen.**

We say together the Post Communion Prayer

**Almighty and eternal God
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and forever. Amen.**

Song: Lord reign in me

Notices:

The PCC are having a Zoom Conference call this coming week to discuss the way forward when we know we can return to church.

Revd Kyla Sorensen's Ordination as Priest will be 11.00am Friday 7th August 2020, here at St Mary's. We hope the Service will be livestreamed or recorded as at present the restrictions mean there will be a very limited number of people who can be present.

The Winners of the 150 Club for June are:

1st prize: Andy Nichols

2nd prize: Noah Clarke, through his Grandfather, Mervyn Wilcox

Blessing:

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace in believing;
and the blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you
and all those you care for now and for always. **Amen.**

Amen.

*Worship tracks from iSingWorship.com
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I encourage you to log on to google versions of the songs we sing through iSingWorship, so you can experience the original youtube recordings by different artistes, which are often so very inspiring...

Leaving Music so people can reflect on the poems

Poems which mean a lot to people about The Trinity:

We have had a great response to our request for some of your favourite poems or songs about the Trinity so here are some of the verses and thoughts close to your hearts. Thank you for sharing.

This poem from John Dryden speaks to Kay Wilcox

Veni, Creator Spiritus

BY JOHN DRYDEN

Creator Spirit, by whose aid
The world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit ev'ry pious mind;
Come, pour thy joys on human kind;
From sin, and sorrow set us free;
And make thy temples worthy Thee.

O, Source of uncreated Light,
The Father's promis'd Paraclete!
Thrice Holy Fount, thrice Holy Fire,
Our hearts with heav'nly love inspire;
Come, and thy Sacred Unction bring
To sanctify us, while we sing!

Plenteous of grace, descend from high,
Rich in thy sev'n-fold energy!
Thou strength of his Almighty Hand,
Whose pow'r does heav'n and earth command:
Proceeding Spirit, our Defence,
Who do'st the gift of tongues dispense,
And crown'st thy gift with eloquence!

Refine and purge our earthly parts;
But, oh, inflame and fire our hearts!
Our frailties help, our vice control;
Submit the senses to the soul;
And when rebellious they are grown,
Then, lay thy hand, and hold 'em down.

Chase from our minds th' Infernal Foe;
And peace, the fruit of love, bestow;
And, lest our feet should step astray,
Protect, and guide us in the way.

Make us Eternal Truths receive,
And practise, all that we believe:
Give us thy self, that we may see
The Father and the Son, by thee.

Immortal honour, endless fame,
Attend th' Almighty Father's name:

The Saviour Son be glorified,
Who for lost Man's redemption died:
And equal adoration be,
Eternal Paraclete, to thee.

Also 'Wit Wonders' Anonymous C15

A God and yet a man,
A maid and yet a mother:
Wit wonders what wit can
Conceive this or the other.

A God and can he die?
A dead man, can he live?
What wit can well reply?
What reason reason give?

God, Truth itself, doth teach it.
Man's wit sinks too far under
By reasons power to reach it:
Believe and leave to wonder.

Lorraine Eldridge sent in this poem:

How Shall I Sing That Majesty (Coe Fen)
Ken Naylor

How shall I sing that Majesty.
Which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
Sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.

Thousands of thousands stand around
Thy throne, O God most high;
Ten thousand times ten thousand sound
Thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
While I Thy footsteps trace;
A sound of God comes to my ears,
But they behold Thy face.

I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
With all my fire and light;
Yet when Thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
Inflame it with love's fire;
Then shall I sing and take my part
With that celestial choir.

They sing because Thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
For where heaven is but once begun
There alleluias be.

How great a being, Lord, is Thine,
Which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
To sound so vast a deep.

Thou art a sea without a shore,
A sun without a sphere;
Thy time is now and evermore,
Thy place is everywhere.

David Leathart sent us this:

A Reading from the letters of St Athanasius.

Light, splendour, grace in the Trinity and from the Trinity.

Paul in the second letter to the Corinthians gives the teaching in these words: 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with you all.' For grace and the gift which is given in the Trinity is given by the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. For just as grace is given from the Father through the Son, so within us the fellowship in the gift cannot be brought about except in the Holy Spirit, then we have the love of the Father, the grace of the Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit himself.

Taken from the Office of Readings for Trinity Sunday in The Divine Office.

Margaret Enger shared this poem with us that she learned as a child.

Advent tells us
Christ is near;
Christmas tells us
Christ is here.
In Epiphany we trace
All the glories of his grace.
Those three Sundays before Lent
They prepare us to repent,
That in Lent we may begin
Earnestly to mourn for sin.
Holy Week and Easter then
Tell Christ died and rose again;
Yes, and Christ ascended too,

To prepare a place for you.
Then he sent the Holy Ghost
On the day of Pentecost,
With us ever to abide,
Well may we keep Whitsuntide.
Last of all we humbly sing
Glory to our God and King,
Glory to the One in Three,
At the feast of Trinity.

She goes on to say: "In the village church where I grew up, Trinity Sunday was a great climax, followed by what seemed then like endless Sundays after Trinity. It was one of only four occasions in the year when we began with a processional hymn. If you had asked me 75 years ago "what are the greatest festivals in the Christian year?" I would have replied, without a moment's hesitation "Easter, Trinity and Harvest".

And finally, Jackie Cook shared this poem by Ann Lewin:

Trinity
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Mother, Daughter, He and She,
Compassed in one mystery,
Pattern of all relationships,
Creating, powerful:
Sustaining not contained,
Outflowing into us
Drawn into you. O Holy God
We worship you

{Watching for the Kingfisher by Ann Lewin}