

## Rev Jean's Sermon – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Trinity Sunday

#### Readings:

**Romans 5: 1-5**

**John 16: 12-15**

In the Name of The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Words that we hear constantly, words that bring responsibility and joy and privilege. Do we take them for granted? How much do they mean to us?

What is our experience in this 21st century of living out the Christian faith, living out together and sharing the will of God, being conformed as human beings, living in the power and strength of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Today, Trinity Sunday, gives a chance to step back to see the Life story of Jesus Christ, which we have been following over the last days – fifty and more days: Lent, Easter, Pentecost. It is a valuable chance to consider the difference this story makes to the way we view the world.

We shall begin the cycle all over again hearing the redeeming work of Christ his healing, his miracles, his humanity, his love for the marginalized, as we travel through the long weeks and Sundays of Ordinary Time. This is no ordinary time. It is a time of constantly learning again and again the truth we learn from our readings as we progress the truth of the love of God for humanity shown to us in the life of Jesus.

This is the one day alone that we celebrate the doctrine of the church, don't worry I am not going to go off into complicated lecture mode about this day, it always has caused pondering and problems too and many points of view.

Firstly, the Trinity is absolutely incomprehensible! It is not mentioned in the scriptures, yet it is the backbone of our very existence.

The mystery of this most holy day – the Feast of the Trinity – is both simple and indeed complex. Simply stated, it is that there is only one God, yet that God becomes three persons. It becomes a complex situation for our mere human minds when trying make sense who is this one God. How do we figure this out? Uncertainty affects our ability to take in new information.

Trinitarian life is not meant to be difficult – in fact quite the reverse, it is not meant to be a problem that we must solve or to figure out. It is a beautiful and enriching invitation to all of us, for all people to be part of God's plan, to have our lives enriched to engage with our communities and participate in the very essence of God's love for all of humanity.

It is something beyond – seemingly out of reach, so why does it matter? And yet it does!! It is something that is without doubt among us and within us.

Trinity Sunday gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the relationship that God longs for and is on offer to all of us individually and as member of the body of a Faith family.

You will all like me over the years have heard the explanations describing the three persons in one, the Holy Trinity. You will have heard the illustration of water being, water, steam and ice and yet water. The illustration of the shamrock – 3 leaves and yet one. And other examples.

Let's look at

- God as Creator... has fashioned all things the beauty of the earth its resources and its people.
- God as Jesus... the one born of Spirit, the one who lived among us, walked the earth, showed us his redeeming power (needed by the world right now)
- God as Holy Spirit – promised to the gathered disciples as the helper the comforter, power and help in all situations, this is the gift to them and now in this time and age to us, active in our lives to regenerate and inspire. It is powerful sometimes overwhelming, guides us, draws us on, but we must tap into this and makes responses.

Augustine in his writings said much, he said the Spirit is the creator, the one who creates all.  
The mediator – between God and humankind, the intercessor and councillor.  
The Unifier – unites all believers.

Augustine said much more and used the familiar illustrations that we have heard, but I quote.

The story is told that one day Saint Augustine was walking along a beach, puzzling quietly over the doctrine of the Trinity, he came across a little child running back and forth with a bucket and pouring water from the sea into a hole he had previously dug in the sand, Augustine asked “what are you doing?” The boy replied “I am just trying to get the ocean into this hole.” Augustine realized he had been trying to put the infinite God into his tiny mind... Think about this it is powerful, isn't it?

St Paul writing to the Romans wants to share with them and encourage them in what he has discovered for himself. That suddenly as he discovered, it is there for us to see also, that we are standing in the right place. That place is one that has been won for us by Christ, that discovery has to be one of joy, also of hope, knowing that we are reconciled to God by this overwhelming grace poured out for us and brought to us afresh in the light of the resurrection, and this has to be the rock on which we stand today on this feast day, whatever lies ahead we keep this promise of hope before us, blessed by the presence of the gift of the quiet peace brought by the spirit to which we have been given access, so that it gives us a new perception of the whole world.

John's gospel is short. We hear Jesus tenderly speaking instructions to the disciples, he gives them a lot of information for the next part of their calling, he then tells them he has much more to tell them, but it is all too much for them and time is short, but he assures them, after he has returned to the father the Spirit will come upon them to guide them and to strengthen them. He also implies there is much to be done and that is a reminder for us that there is much to be done, in this last gift Jesus reminds them that they must keep moving a reminder to us all that we simply cannot stay static, even though at times we have to pause to reassess.

The pandemic, Brexit, and the struggle of war and how to teach our people to manage has asked us to do just that. Then Trinity teaches us to see unity. I really want us to focus on the unity that is represented, to help us to see again, for us all a oneness, a new collaboration, respect of persons, a sharing of tasks and labour, not leaving each to do it alone, but lending support and cooperation, a goal we can achieve by the power of the spirit if we discover singleness of purpose. Our communities and world need this right now.

How do we do all of this? We begin here around this table, because of the Blessed Trinity we are assured of Christ's presence bringing the riches of Grace, present here at the Mass. This service brings us face to face with the profound mystery of our faith, because it is a gift to the church. We shall celebrate this on Thursday on the feast of Corpus Christi, of thanksgiving for the Holy Communion

This day then today! It is a reminder of the gifts of the sacraments, especially the gift of Baptism which will be celebrated here later this morning, the pouring of the spirit at this service unites us with Christ and helps us further to acknowledge that we are all children of God, made one with Christ.

More words from Augustine when he speaks of the Eucharist

“A sign of unity, a bond of love”.