

The Bridgwater Drive Church, 12 June 2022, Trinity Sunday

**Call to worship** (inspired by Psalm 8)

Gathered in the name of Jesus Christ,  
inspired by the Holy Spirit, and blessed by God,  
we come to worship one, holy God.

O God, our own God, how wonderful is your name in all the earth.  
Your majesty is the music of the starry skies.  
yet even children of dust can sing your praises.

In the name of the Healer, the Provider and the Enabler  
let your gratitude and joy be made known.  
O God, our own God, how wonderful is your name in all the earth!

**Hymn** Let all the world MP 404 **CD 4, track 10**

**Opening Prayers**

URC Prayer Handbook p45

**Prayer of Confession**

O God of all holiness as we are here in your presence  
help us to be honest about ourselves and our world,  
to recognise the good and the bad, our strengths and our failures,  
all that we have done wrong,  
and all the ways in which you are blessing and affirming us.  
We confess our sins, and the sin of the world, and we ask for mercy,  
and the wisdom and courage to change.  
Let us hear for ourselves the words that Jesus said to so many,  
'Your sins are forgiven' and 'Be at peace'.  
God the source of all life re-creates us each day,  
Christ has, once for all, redeemed the world,  
and the Holy Spirit works to empower us in goodness.  
Thanks be to God, the Holy Trinity of mercy, love and power, Amen.

**Offering**

May the offerings brought this day be used as seeds,  
planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly  
so that God's way may be realized anew in this world.  
Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious garden. Amen

**Hymn** Holy, holy, holy MP 237 **CD 3, track 15**

**Bible readings:**      **Psalm 8**  
                                 **Romans 5:1-5**

So, today is Trinity Sunday. A day often dreaded by ministers, myself included, because who can possibly explain the Trinity?! Of course, we can't and that is kind of the point. Trinity Sunday gives us an opportunity to wallow in the mystery of God. Most Sundays, especially if we are following the lectionary, which we usually do, we only look at one small part of the Bible and one small part of our faith. Like a professor focussing on one obscure topic and ignoring everything else, we sometimes focus in great detail on just a few lines of

The Bridgwater Drive Church, 12 June 2022, Trinity Sunday

scripture, referring back to the Greek and the context of biblical times to try to find how it relates to our lives here in 2022 in Bridgwater Drive. But Trinity Sunday is different, because today we have a go at looking at the whole thing – all of Christian faith, all of what God is, and does and wants from us. Trinity Sunday is a kind of staring up at the night sky, like the writer of Psalm 8 and declaring that God has set his glory above the heavens and what are we that God should be mindful of us and care for us?

The effect of that staring up into the night sky is that we get the awesome beauty and mystery of God, the holiness of God. We stand still for a moment and look up at what it is that we celebrate in fragments and snippets every other Sunday. It's a kind of 'wow' moment. One way we try to put this 'wow' into words, the infinite and eternal mysteries of the God revealed to us in Jesus and known through the power of the Holy Spirit, is to talk about the Trinity, and even then, human words are inadequate – we simply don't have the vocabulary to describe God. Trinity Sunday is not a puzzle for the intellect, not something we have to try to work out and understand, but a challenge and a joy for the soul. It's about the awesome splendour and majesty of God.

A couple of years ago, I bought this book called 'The Book of Delights' - it is just that. Every day for a year, starting on his birthday which happened to be 1 August, the writer, Ross Gay, decided to write a short daily essay on something delightful to 'both wonder about and share that delight.' Some of them, are so specific to him and where he lives in America, that they don't entirely work anywhere else, but most of them are delightful simply because of the language he uses and his joy in sharing. Many of the things he writes about are some small thing that made him smile in an otherwise sad, or tiring or frustrating day. Anyway, I was struggling a bit to say much more about the Trinity, but since it is an unfathomable delight, I decided to look in the book and see what it said for today's date – read 'Fireflies.' ...

I think his wonder at the light show created by insects when he was a child and didn't know what it was has a parallel with the Trinity – we don't understand it and probably never will, but we love the light, we are in awe of it and we want to share it. In the introduction to his book, he says that the discipline of having to write about a 'delight' every day for a year, gave him a kind of 'delight radar' – he became tuned in to finding at least one delightful thing every day. Just as they say gratitude begets gratitude – counting your blessings makes you aware how many blessings you really have, until they drown out the annoyances and the difficulties and the things that go wrong. The Trinity does that too – by its mystery it blots out the detail of all the things we don't understand – how can God be three in one; did Jesus really physically come back to life, how could Mary be pregnant by

The Bridgwater Drive Church, 12 June 2022, Trinity Sunday

the Holy Spirit... and lets us focus on God's love, that God has made us mere mortals 'just a little lower than God' crowned with glory and honour.

### **Share 'delights'**

One thing I do understand about the Trinity though is that it is about community – three different aspects reflected and expressed in one whole. It is the model of how our human communities should be – harmonious, undivided, caring, yet celebrating the different gifts we all bring to that one whole. God is a community, within God's own being. God is not individualistic and selfish as we are. God has a built-in expansiveness, a uniqueness, an undivided sharing between God, Redeemer and Spirit – immortal, invisible, God only wise as the hymn says.

What I love about our church here is how it reaches out to the community. We may be small in number on a Sunday, and maybe very few of the people who come to our other events will ever come to Sunday worship, but this place is at the heart of the community at the weekly Community Coffee, the fairs we have, the people who use the building during the week, and those people think of this place as their church. That is the work of the Holy Spirit, and that is sharing the wonder of God the Trinity!

**Hymn** Father of heaven MP 827 **CD9, track 9** (tune to When I survey the wondrous cross)

### **LORD'S SUPPER**

We remember, as we do at every communion service, the gift of the life and death of God's Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Come to this table, you who are beloved in Christ. Come, not because you must, but because you may.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Loving God, the world you made is beautiful and full of wonder.

You made us, with all your creatures, and you love all that you have made.

You gave us the words of your prophets, the stories of your people throughout the generations,

and the gathered wisdom of many years.

You gave us Jesus, your Son, to be born and to grow up in difficult times where there was little peace.

He embraced people with your love and told stories to change us all.

He healed those in pain and brought to life those who had lost hope.

He made friends with anyone who would listen and loved even his enemies.

For these things, he suffered. For these things, he died.

The Bridgwater Drive Church, 12 June 2022, Trinity Sunday

And he was raised from death and lives with you forever.  
You give us your Holy Spirit, to teach and to strengthen us,  
to remind us of Jesus Christ and to make us one in him.  
For all these gifts we thank you, and join with all your people  
on earth and in heaven, in joyful praise, saying:

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

This is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine,  
and upon your people, that Christ may be with us,  
and we may be ready to live for you  
and do what you ask of us, today and every day to come. **Amen**

On the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup after supper saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood, Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **Sharing of bread and wine**

#### **Prayer after communion**

Most gracious God, three in one, we thank you for what you have given us.  
You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service.  
Now we give ourselves to you, and ask that our daily living  
may be part of the life of your kingdom,  
and that our love may be your love  
reaching out into the life of the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### **Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession**

O God, we thank you for the gift of yourself as Holy Trinity,  
for the revelation that you are as you are in Jesus,  
and that you are present with us in and through the Holy Spirit.  
Thank you for the invitation to share in the loving community at your heart.  
Give us such a true and deep sense of your holiness and beauty,  
of your strength and your love,  
that we may receive the gift of your presence with us.  
Holy, holy, holy is the God of all creation!

O God, we thank you for the holy gift of human life;  
for people who love us and befriend us,  
for food to eat, for beauty to enjoy,  
for work and leisure, youth and age.

The Bridgwater Drive Church, 12 June 2022, Trinity Sunday

We thank you for the mysteries that delight us  
and the sense that life is a wonder.  
Help us to know already, in this world, the holiness and mystery of eternity.  
Holy, holy, holy is the God of all creation!

O God, we thank you for the world you have made;  
for its diversity and beauty,  
and for all the people who inhabit it with us.  
We pray that we will learn how to treasure the holiness of the world  
and all of its people and lands.  
We pray and long for a just and lasting peace in every place.  
Help us to be peacemakers and advocates for justice  
as you give us power and purpose wherever we are.  
Holy, holy, holy is the God of all creation!

O God, we thank you for our friends and our families,  
for our neighbours and colleagues.  
Help us to honour them all as your holy children  
and to be attentive to the holiness in each person.  
We pray for those who are ill or in any kind of distress or trouble.  
Touch them with your peace and help us to bring them comfort and hope,  
Holy, holy, holy is the God of all creation!

O God, we pray together  
in a time of silence...  
offering the deepest prayers of our hearts  
and waiting on the holiness of your love...  
Holy, holy, holy is the God of all creation!

O God, we thank you  
for those we have known who have died.  
May we never forget them  
but continue to honour them with our living.  
And may we, with them, find our eternal rest in you.

We pray these and all our prayers  
to God the holy and eternal Trinity,  
source of our being, saviour of the world, Spirit of all holiness. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn** O Lord my God! MP 506 **CD 5, track 16**

### **Blessing**

Go in peace to love and serve God;  
the holy and undivided trinity.  
And the blessing of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us today and every day. Amen

The Bridgwater Drive Church sung Blessing. **Unaccompanied** (ask Jan to start it)

Hymns used under The Bridgwater Drive Church CCLI licence 257182