

TRINITY SUNDAY
TYNDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
30TH MAY 2021

Notices for 30th May

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our worship here at Tyndale. If you are watching from home or indeed here with us, a regular attendee, or a visitor, we hope you will feel at home with us as we worship together.

This morning I am very pleased to welcome the Rev Gary Woodall who is a regional minister for the West of England Baptist network. Gary, we welcome you to Tyndale and thank you for being here with us and leading our service today. We look forward to sharing in worship with you this morning.

On Tuesday at 11am, our usual zoom coffee shop will take place. Do join us if you are free, to catch up with one another, the joining details can be found on the website.

On Thursday evening we have another of our zoom fun evenings. This starts at 7.30 and again the log in details can be found on the website. Many of you may remember the game show Family Fortunes, and so our evening will be based on this show. Do join us for what is always a very fun time together.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in opening up the church this morning, those who have taken part in our service and the recording of it. Don't forget we have our zoom coffee shop after the service at 11.30 for those that are able to make it, again with the details on our website.

As we enter another week, we continue to think of Rachel our community minister as she recuperates after surgery. Thank you.

Welcome

Call to Worship

The blessing of Father, Spirit, Son. Holy Trinity, Three in One, be in our meeting and our greeting, in the worship we share and the words of our prayer.

BPW 383 Immortal Invisible God only wise

Opening Prayer We gather this morning in the name of the Creator, who creates time and space, galaxies and stars and planets. In the name of Jesus Christ, born on planet Earth, and in the name of the Spirit who fills Earth with his presence. Creator God, in this time we call 'now' in this space we call 'here' we worship you. Make your presence felt among us.

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 forever. Amen

NICENE CREED

Video

WE BELIEVE in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Graham Kendrick We believe

BPW 51 Holy, Holy, Holy**Message**

Today is Trinity Sunday, it is one of the few feasts in the Christian calendar that celebrate a doctrine rather than an event. The trinity is a fundamental doctrine because it is about discovering who God is.

Over the past weeks you have focused on the life death and resurrection of Jesus, Last Sunday was a focus on Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. How are these two things connected?

John 16:5-7 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, "Where are you going?" ⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁵ I am going to him who sent me - That is the Father sends the son ⁷ I will send him to you - That is Jesus will send the Holy Spirit. First the Father sends the Son, then the Son sends the Spirit. We see the three person of the trinity in action here.

Many people respond to the trinity as Alice, in Alice through the looking glass: "I can't believe THAT!" said Alice. Can't you? said the Queen in a pitying tone. Try again: draw a long breath, and shut your eyes. Alice laughed. There's no use trying, she said, one can't believe impossible things. I daresay you haven't had much practice, said the Queen. When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why sometimes I believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast!

The Trinity is neither irrational nor impossible. It may be beyond the reach of our complete understanding, but then how can finite human beings with limited brain capacity understand an infinite God with unlimited capability.

Even the Lord tells us about our shortcomings in this area.

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

Understanding God's nature goes beyond our ability to understand, and that's because we know of no other being like God. So we have to understand our limitations: We Are Limited By Our Humanity, God is our creator and we are His creatures; We Are Limited By Our Language, 1 Corinthians 13:11-12 ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

As God is a mystery so is the trinity, because a mystery is something that's bigger than our minds can take in.

¹ John 5:7-8 declares: For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one

How can God be in three and three in one?

St Augustine of Hippo took nearly thirty years to write fifteen volumes called "About the Trinity". St. Augustine - so the story goes - was struggling to understand the doctrine of the Trinity. So he decided to go for a walk on the beach, where he saw a little boy digging a hole in the sand with a seashell. The boy then ran off to the ocean, filling the shell, and rushed back to pour it into the hole he had made. "What are you doing, my little man," St. Augustine asked. "I'm trying to put the ocean into this hole", the boy replied. Augustine suddenly realised that this was precisely what he was trying to do... to fit the great mysteries of God into his mind.

God has revealed himself to us as Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It's the foundation for the Christian.

The deepest questions of life are, "What is God like? Who is God? If we understand something of the trinity we will get a greater understanding of who God is and what God is like.

The Trinity is implicit in scripture. It is not explicit. You will not find the word "Trinity" in the Bible. You will not see in scripture where it says, Here is the Trinity -- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is implicit. Specifically, the word "Trinity" means, "tri-unity" or, "three in oneness."

I'm want to give you three statements right now: Here's the first one: God is three persons. Here's the second one: each is fully God. Here's the third one: there is one God. So God is One in essence and Three in persons

The doctrine of the Trinity seeks to hold all of the truth that God says about himself in Scripture. **THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD.** The shema which is repeat at Jewish worship Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one Deut. 6:4. - **THE FATHER IS GOD** there is one God, the Father 1 Cor. 8:6 - **THE SON IS GOD.** The deity of Christ, Jesus being fully God and fully man, is implicit, not explicit, in scripture. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us John 1:1, 14. . . . Jesus Christ. He is the true God 1 John 5:20 - **THE SPIRIT IS GOD.** It must be stressed that the Spirit is a person and not an "it." The Spirit is not an impersonal force, but rather a person who can be grieved Eph. 4:30; resisted Acts 7:51; outraged Heb. 10:29 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit 2 Cor. 3:17-18

SO LET US BRIEFLY TURN TO 1 PETER 1 AND DISCOVER THE TRINITY IN ACTION 1 Peter 1:2 we've been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father (**THERE'S ONE PERSON**), through the sanctifying work of the Spirit (**THERE'S THE SECOND PERSON**), for obedience to Jesus Christ (**THERE'S THE THIRD PERSON**) and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

1 Peter was written by the Apostle Peter to the followers of Christ who were living in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. It's roughly the area we know today as Turkey. Peter was writing to Christians who had been scattered far from home, some because of persecution, some because of circumstance. Peter was writing to encourage people who were lonely, afraid and discouraged. So as we briefly reflect on this passage, reflect on what God wants to do and is doing. Let us take these words to heart ourselves in our lives and situation.

GOD THE FATHER CHOSE YOU. God the Father knew you and chose you long ago

Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God has chosen us. We are special to Him, we belong to His family, we are children of the living God.

God the Father knew you and chose you long ago - the Greek word used here is *eklektos* (*ek-lek-tos*'), which means set apart, chosen before, elect. God the Father knew everything and everyone even before He spoke the universe into existence.

I have friends who have adopted children. If you talk with the children they will tell you they are special because they were chosen by their parents. In the hardship of their lives, when things seemed to be against them; when they feel alone and isolated; when they feel rejected by others they are reminded that they are loved and chosen. As Peter later states regarding ourselves: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession

You and I, and all who have faith are loved and chosen to be the people of God. We are God's special possession. I hope you heard that .. You are God the Father special possession

God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES YOU** through the sanctifying work of the Spirit

Sanctified by the work of the Spirit "Set apart", "declared holy", "consecrated", "Freed from sin", "purified". As disciples of Christ, we are "set us apart" for God's purposes in this world. The Holy Spirit works in us to transform and change us. God wants us to be His holy people, in fact His command to us in 1 Peter 1:16 is You must be holy because I am holy

Oswald Chambers wrote: Sanctification is not my idea of what I want God to do for me, sanctification is God's idea of what He wants to do for me.

The Holy Spirit helps us to be obedient to God. The Holy Spirit reminds us we are loved by God. The Holy Spirit reminds us we belong to God. The Holy Spirit reminds us we are chosen by God. The Holy Spirit can change and transform to be God's Holy people. Sanctification is a lifelong process, the Holy Spirit has changed us, is changing us and will continue to change us so that we can become more Christlike. This is not about us trying to be more holy, but it is about allowing the person of the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and transform us from within.

GOD THE SON CLEANSSES YOU As a result, you have obeyed Him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and His Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. The obedience Peter is writing about

is continuous obedience, living our lives as children of God and disciples of Jesus. For us as Christians, obedience to God is not an optional extra, it is meant to be the way we live our daily lives.

Chuck Colson, once said; "The very nature of the obedience God demands is that it be given without regard to circumstances or results."

In Old Testament times, people were sprinkled with some of the blood from an animal sacrifice to remind them of their solemn vows to God and God's great promises to them. It was a covenant relationship, that was sealed with blood. In the New Covenant God has established with us, through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we are cleansed, set apart and pledged to obedience.

1. God the Father CHOSE you. 2. God the Holy Spirit CHANGES you. 3. God the Son CLEANSSES you. If we can grasp these truths of God, if we can begin to allow God to work in our lives in these various ways.

Grace and peace be yours in abundance. In the situation you are facing realise who God is; Grasp what God has done and allow God to be at work in you. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

BPW 391 tell out my soul

Prayers

Holy God, you have revealed yourself to us in a trinity of ways: as our powerful Creator, our dying Saviour, and our comforting Spirit. But we also know you as a loving parent, a risen Lord, and a dynamic breath of fresh air. We're never really sure of how you are able to be all these things to us, but you are. And we praise you. Holy God, lead us down your Holy Way that we may grow in becoming who you have created and redeemed us to be. As we hear what may seem to our limited minds to be an impossible call, teach us the grace to place our limitations within the wonder of your unlimited hands.

We pray for our world In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Offering prayer & the grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.

Benediction

The blessing of Father, Spirit, Son, Holy Trinity, Three in One, be in our living and our breathing, that through our hearts and our words your truth may be heard.

BPW 49 God we praise you! God we bless you