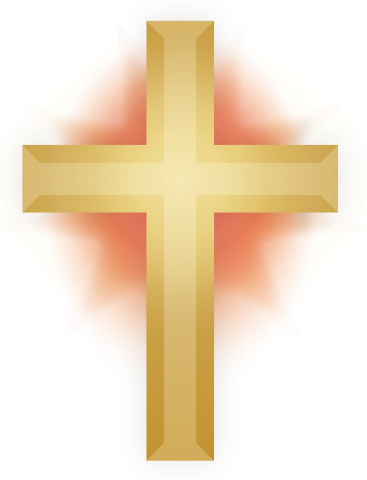
**TRINITY SUNDAY JUNE 7 2020**







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**TRINITY SUNDAY**

**Grace, Love and Fellowship for all**

***‘May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2Cor 13v14***

**Welcome to our Service today. It is Trinity Sunday when we praise and celebrate the the one true God who is 3 Persons in One and who is Love.**

**HYMN:** Our first hymn worships God in His holiness and power: Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty.

[https://youtu.be/vBjM47zICos](about:blank)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea,  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

A time now to say sorry to God:

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’

*A short time of silence*

**All:** **Holy God have mercy upon us, forgive us where we have gone wrong and sinned and help us to walk from now on in your way. Amen.**

May the God of love and power bring you back to Himself, forgive you through the death of His Son Jesus, free you from your sins, and restore you to newness of life by his Spirit.**Let us pray:**

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK:**

**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. Amen.**

**READINGS: 2 Corinthians 13: v 11-14.**

Final greetings

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God’s people here send their greetings.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**MATTHEW 28: v 16-20.**

The great commission

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’

**SERMON:**

**Let us pray:**

Holy God, open your Word to our hearts, and our hearts to your Word. Amen

We are waiting. Waiting at home. Waiting for a ‘new normal’. We know life is not going to be the same again. There are bound to be changes, probably huge changes. But we don’t know. We don’t know when or how as we wait for Lockdown to unfold (we pray not unravel) and we begin to find our way through to a new reality.

Actually Jesus’ closest disciples could empathise with all that. They experienced similar anxieties after His Ascension when he disappeared from their sight but expectant of a new future. They waited and waited at home shut in because of fear, knowing that something was about to happen but having no idea what it would be like.

And then it happened on the day of Pentecost; there was a sound like a mighty rushing wind and something like tongues of fire on each one of them as the Holy Spirit came on them. They found themselves able to speak in different languages and with a power they hadn’t known before. The Christian church was born and 3000 people of all races came to believe on that great day in AD30.

And nothing was ever the same again. A vast new movement had begun which would soon take hold of the whole of the known world as the Christian Good News spread and flourished throughout Europe and Asia.

And for us; we are all waiting and wondering and wrestling with enormous complex questions about how we are to cope in a new unknown future. There are huge issues for us as individuals to work out and for all our institutions, for churches, schools, businesses etc.

There is so much that we don’t know but at least as Christians our priorities are clear. Jesus spells them out for us in our second Bible passage which comes at the very end of Matthew’s Gospel. It’s known as the Great Commission as Jesus tells his followers they are 1. to go into all the world and make disciples, 2. To baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and 3. To teach everything He has commanded them.

That is our key agenda too and as we begin all our discussions about how we can gradually return to real church rather than virtual church. We have to keep telling ourselves; this is what we are for, this is our task given by the Lord Jesus the King of Kings himself - to reach out into our community to share the Good News of Jesus with our family, our friends and our neighbours.

These are Jesus’s priorities for His Church and that means not buildings but people.

It is the theme of the global wave of prayer Thy Kingdom Come we have been joining in - that God’s Kingdom will come to the whole world.

At St Michael’s we have specifically committed ourselves to these priorities of Jesus which are set out too in the Diocese's Vision: we are praying to draw people of all ages into our church fellowship with a specific emphasis on children and families. An exciting new project to facilitate that is our plan to build a small Lodge in a spare corner of the graveyard by the carpark. This is essential to accommodate our burgeoning children's ministry and enable our Sunday School to meet on site safe and dry.

Some of you may have watched the Pentecost service which was part of Thy Kingdom Come. One of the most moving features was the Lord’s prayer spoken by dozens of people in different languages, all praying together the words ‘Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven’. It’s a powerful reminder that the Good News of Jesus- His saving death and resurrection from the dead - is for all people everywhere, of all ages and backgrounds and our task is to pray for that and be ourselves part of the answer as we share that Good News with others.

I going to pause at this point and if you are watching this as a recorded video you will be able to experience that Lord’s Prayer yourself. Why not listen first, then play it back and join in yourself. It is the most amazing privilege to be part of this world wide family which stretches over the globe and throughout time and eternity. Here it is …..

**Our Father who art in heaven**

**Hallowed be thy name**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us**

**And lead us not into temptation**

**But deliver us from evil**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

And now look again at our first reading which reinforces the immense privilege we have of belonging to God’s worldwide family. Paul finishes his second letter to the Christians in the cosmopolitan Greek town of Corinth with these words: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all”. Did you recognise them? Many people do not realise they are actually a Bible verse. They think of it as a lovely prayer which Christians often pray together at the end of worship or a meeting which indeed they are.

It can be confusing however. I remember once just before a parish lunch in our previous church inviting one of our PCC members who I knew was happy to pray out loud, to say grace for us. I had intended her to thank God for the food (grace here comes from the Latin word for thanks) - but actually she prayed this verse which is often referred to as ‘the Grace’

It is a beautiful prayer but grace here doesn’t mean ‘thanks’ but the free gift of undeserved love which comes from the very heart of God. Think of the hymn Amazing Grace - it’s all about the free and unmerited favour of God. Being a Christian starts with grace; the God of love has reached down to us in sheer undeserved mercy.

Jesus embodies the grace of God. In Jesus, grace became human and gave itself for the world. And behind grace is the love of God . Christians unlike anyone else believe that the God who made the world is a totally loving God who has shown this love by sending His Son into the world to put everything right.

And those who are grasped by this love are joined together in a family, the like of which the world has never seen before-a family not based on race, or class, or gender or age but one which everyone is welcome to join. It is a family called to share a common life– it is a fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

These verses give a neat shorthand version of the Christian life. And at the same time they give a brief yet complete picture of the God in whom Christians believe

It is not hard to see why this reading has been chosen for Trinity Sunday. You won’t find the word Trinity in the Bible – that comes later as Christians reflect on what the Bible tells us God is like. But here you find the clear understanding that the one true God is a Person or rather 3 Persons in One and love is at the very heart of that Person. Love requires an object and the picture of God in the Bible is of a loving Father, a loving Son and a loving Holy Spirit, loving one another throughout eternity.

So today on Trinity Sunday 2020 you can wait, wait at home with the same excitement as those disciples in 30 AD but with a new different hope and joyful expectation of the unknown future post lockdown we are moving towards. We have the Holy Spirit now as Gift as our guide and our Enabler to give us the power to undertake the work God has prepared for us to do in this place.

So let us pray together. And let’s use the words of Paul's prayer in 2 Corinthians 13 of the amazing gifts to us of grace, love and fellowship.

***May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***

***Amen***

Our next song is a prayer thanking God for all His amazing blessings, more than we can begin to count. It was sung as part of the same Thy Kingdom Come Pentecost service lead by the Archbishop of Canterbury from which we joined in the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn: Bless the Lord O my soul

[https://youtu.be/DXDGE\_lRI0E](about:blank)

Bless the Lord oh my soul

Oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like [never](about:blank) before

Oh my soul

I'll [worship](about:blank) Your Holy name

The sun [comes](about:blank) up

It's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass

And [whatever](about:blank) lies [before](about:blank) me

Let me be singing

When the [evening](about:blank) comes

*Bless the Lord oh my soul …*

You're rich in love

And You're slow to anger

Your name is great

And Your [heart](about:blank) is kind

For all Your goodness

I will keep on singing

Ten [thousand](about:blank) reasons

For my [heart](about:blank) to find

*Bless the Lord oh my soul …*

And on that day

When my [strength](about:blank) is failing

The end [draws](about:blank) near

And my time has come

Still my soul will

Sing Your [praise](about:blank) unending

Ten [thousand](about:blank) years

And then forevermore

Forevermore

*Bless the Lord oh my soul …..* (repeat)

**PRAYERS:**

"Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea"

On this Trinity Sunday, Loving Heavenly Father, we praise you for your care and love, guarding us, guiding us, keeping us and feeding us. Thank you for the blessings of being able to call you Father. We pray today for your Fatherly goodness for all those parts of the world that are experiencing anguish, not just with Covid 19. We pray for the country of Yemen, devastated by recent warfare. We commit to you countries with huge populations, such as India, and with all that they have to cope with, at this time. And we continue to pray for the world-wide effort to find an effective vaccine, that will successfully bring the coronavirus under control.

We pray for all who are sick at this time especially for Peal Read, for Michael Harrison and all others known to us.

We give thanks for the lives of Bernice Hesketh, Dot Watkinson, Dorothy Linton and Austin Spencer and pray for their families and friends.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

"Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us, all our weakness Thou dost know."

Lord Jesus, on this Trinity Sunday, we praise you that you came to this earth, took on our human form, and became obedient to death - even death upon a cross. We thank you that your death brought forgiveness and salvation, and we rejoice in your bringing us back to God. As we commit our country to you, we pray for our schools and children, as decisions are taken as to when and if to start back. Please guide those responsible for making decisions, and please help our children to come through this present crisis, so that their desire for learning and for being together with classmates will be undiminished.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

"Spirit of our God, descending, fill our hearts with heavenly joy."

Holy Spirit, as we celebrate Trinity Sunday today, we thank you for your coming into our hearts, reassuring us that we are part of the Christian family, encouraging us that we are loved and valued, and enlarging our vision of the joys and perfection of Heaven. As we pray for our community today, we thank you for the initiative of our Church leaders with the Thy Kingdom Come project. We ask that we may all respond to the encouragement to pray for five friends, and we thank you that you intercede for us with sighs too deep for words. And we commit our future into your hands, as we seek a way forward in a world and community that has been changed by coronavirus.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Finally Lord, we thank you again for the wonder and mystery of the Trinity. We thank you for the gift of the love of the Father, the death of the Son, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Please help us, as we worship you, Three in One, and help us in our service and our prayers.

All these prayers we offer up for the Glory of Your Name and for the extension of Your Kingdom. Amen

**HYMN** Our final hymn focusses on the great task Jesus gave us to take the Good News to all people. – Go forth and tell:

[https://youtu.be/XNyDd9qtuk0](about:blank)

1 Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take;  
proclaim Christ Jesus, saviour, Lord, and king,  
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

2 Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;  
he will in grace respond to all who call:  
how shall they call if they have never heard  
the gracious invitation of his word?

3 Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!  
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you always. Amen

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