

30 May 2021
Christ Church New
Southgate & Friern Barnet

Please join us at 11am on Sunday in person,
online or on paper.

Welcome

The voice of our God and King
is heard in blessing,
as it echoes in its majestic powers
over all creation.

**We come to worship our God
– Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

The voice of God is heard in all creation –
and it responds
with joy to the voice of its Creator, Sustainer
and Renewer.

**We come to worship our God
– Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

We come to worship our God,
and to celebrate the
way we are welcomed
into God's glorious presence.

**We come to worship our God
– Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

Adapted from © 2011 Joan Stott – "The Timeless
Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission.

Today on Trinity Sunday we celebrate being
part of the family of God as we dedicate
David and think about our relationship with
God in trinity – Father, Son and Spirit. Let's
sing:

Song: Come you thankful, Sam Hargreaves

1. Come you thankful people come,
to praise the one true God;
come as many, come as one,
to praise the one true God.
We've travelled here down many ways,

to praise the one true God,
and all of us have parts to play,
to praise the one true God.
So we sing:

*Father, Spirit, Son,
you are God, one true God.
We praise you here as one,
you are God,
one true God.*

2. Bring your laughter, raise your voice,
to praise the one true God;
we will make a joyful noise,
to praise the one true God.
Come in sadness, come in pain,
to praise the one true God;
be yourself with us today,
to praise the one true God.
So we sing:

3. Many shapes and sizes come,
to praise the one true God;
we join together old and young,
to praise the one true God.
So bring your gifts and I'll bring mine,
to praise the one true God;
through our differences we'll shine,
to praise the one true God.
So we sing:

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Prayer

God the creator, we come, in awe of you.
We are overwhelmed by the wonder of your
creation; we are inspired by the mystery of
life; we are amazed by the beauty of your
world; we are astonished that such a God
would have anything to do with the likes of
us.

So, we kneel before you, in awe and wonder,
humbled before your greatness.

God the Son, who has come amongst us in the person of Jesus; you have walked our streets; you have lifted our children; you have sat in our churches; you have nattered with our fisherman.

So we come, with you beside us, no longer remote and distant. We come, no longer in fear and trembling, but seeking the embrace of your love, the smile of your acceptance, the touch of your forgiveness. We dare to come close to you because you have come close to us.

God, the Spirit of Life, we are thankful for your constant presence; for the healing of your love; for the challenge of your Word; for the inspiration of your Gospel; for the community of your Church.

Renew us and refresh us; enable us and enliven us; challenge us and change us; prompt us and improve us ...
in our worship ...
in our mission ...
and in our service in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and all to your Glory
Amen.

By Tom Gordon, and posted on the Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Dedication of David

Intercession and 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,

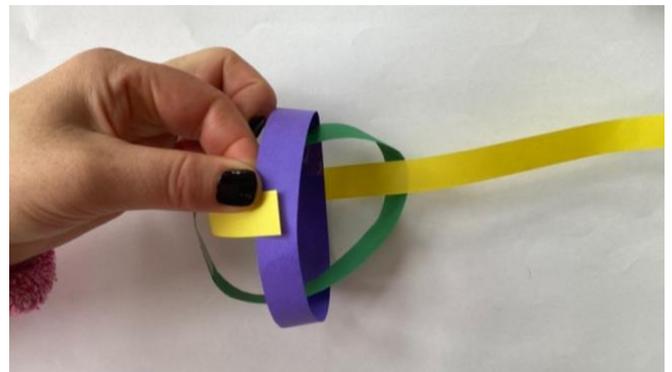
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Reading : Romans 8.14-17 read by Elijah

¹⁴ Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's children. ¹⁵ For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, "Father! my Father!" ¹⁶ God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for him; for if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory.

All age activity – Borromeo Rings

Use three strips of paper to make a set of interconnecting rings. Make two circles and stick together with tape. Take the third piece, and pass it through the inside of first circle and the outside of the second as below.



This shows us the inter-connected nature of the trinity. Father, Son and Spirit are unique but related, never is one seen without part of the presence of another.

Please see activity guide here from Fay Rowland:

<https://reflectionary.org/2016/05/18/activity-trinity-rings/>

Prayer

Dear God, On this Trinity Sunday help us to come to know all of who you are. Help us to connect with you as our loving parent, our Saviour and our helper guide. Amen.

Sermon

Last weekend we visited Audley End near Saffron Walden, Essex. Audley End is a huge mansion now run by English heritage, with parks and gardens to enjoy. It's a great day out. I got curious about the family connected to the big house, so I googled them. The Braybrooke family have been wealthy landowners since the Norman era, so wealthy that they are worth around £21m. You might think that this family would have nothing to worry about, but as it turns out they did, for the last baron had 8 daughters and no sons. The estate had a covenant on it that meant that only sons could inherit the estate. So when the last baron died, his £21m estate went to his 3rd cousin twice removed who was a young man working in IT living in a small flat in south London.



(Audley End image: Ruth Moriarty)

It's a scandal fit for a new series of Downton Abbey. I'm not sure who I sympathise with more – the daughters and the case for gender justice or for the new baron and the poor are lifted up. What do you think?

Romans 8.14-17 gives us a similar scandal. All those who had not followed God, or as Paul says, 'those who are enslaved to sin', are now welcome in his family. We are made his children, or we are adopted into his family. The God of enormous wealth and power, glory and might, the creator of the world, invites us to be part of his family. And he does this in full view of his living heir – the Son of God.

Paul ; the author of Romans, uses the image of making slaves members of a family to explain a wonderful truth about God. In Roman society, adopting a slave was not popular. It was only done if there was no heir for the estate. Even if a slave was adopted, they didn't hold the same rights as a person born free. But here Paul reminds us that the Spirit makes us God's children. God offers each of us slaves to sin, an opportunity to be part of a new family.

There are many of us who do not have positive relationships with our family, some of us don't know our family, some of us have been adopted or adopted others. To each and every one of us, if the subject of family is painful or joyful, God offers each of us a new place in a family.

Through the Spirit God makes us his children. This wonderful offer gives us a close relationship with God, one that is difficult to express in words. By the Spirit we are connected to God heart to heart, soul to soul, hand in hand. This relationship gives us courage, confidence and hope. For we know that we don't even have to speak and he knows our heart. For our cry is not just father, it is *my* father (Romans 8v15) just as Jesus called my father – Abba, so we can too. We

know our cry reaches his ears because he has chosen us to be part of his family and he welcomes our presence every single day.

What kind of family are we invited to? The family of God is Father, Son and Spirit. Kelly Latimore has painted a wonderful modern version of an old Russian icon of the trinity. Each woman is different, a different race, and different position. Which one do you think is supposed to be the Spirit, Son or Father? Or Spirit, Daughter, Mother?



Trinity, Kelly Latimore

Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, USA <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57123> Original source: <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/contact/>.

Two women are looking at us, one is looking at the other. Each are holding hands but look closely the woman in the pink robe has one finger pointing – in iconography this means teacher, someone leading the way, guiding us. The woman in the green robe has an open hand waiting for ours. They sit around a small table laid with wheat and grapes, bread and wine and there is space for us to join in. Here then is a beautiful picture of God's invitation to us – come be part of this family, creator, redeemer, sustainer and us. Come around this

table and be nourished, come be made a child of God, come why? Because God loves us with such enormous extravagance, it almost feels scandalous. Like being poor and inheriting £21m. Here is God's open hand to us – come be part of this family and know God's love and grace to the full.

This is the family that we as a church offer to each other too. To each of us and most especially David today, you are welcome here. You are equally loved and cared for. We long for everyone to flourish here, we will lift you up when you are down and you will lift others up when we are weak. So on this Trinity Sunday – let us take the hand of God who makes us his children as a sign of the greatest love. May we live and breathe in his power as his children today for his glory.

Song: Oh wow, what an awesome God
(Pete James, Harvey Jessop)

When I gaze up to the stars
When I see the light from planet Mars
There's only one creator
When I watch the moon at night
When I feel the sun that's burning bright
There's only one creator

So clap your hands and sing
Shout out and worship him
So clap your hands and sing
And let the praise begin

*Oh wow! What a God
Oh wow! What a God
There's no one like you
There'll never be another
Oh wow! What a God
Oh wow! What a God
There's no one like you
There'll never be another
Awesome God*

Look at all the animals
Look at all the places round the world

There's only one creator
All the languages we're talking in
French, Spanish, Greek to Mandarin
Solo hay un Creador

You walked upon the earth you made
Oh wow! Oh wow
You died and now we can be saved
Oh wow! Oh wow
You rose and left an empty grave
Oh wow! Oh wow
One day you're coming back again

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www.songsolutions.org)/Harvey Jessop

Blessing

God the Father watch over us
- hands reaching up high above the body

God the Son walk with us
- hands reaching out wide either side of the body

God the Spirit work through us
- hands crossed over the body

Until we meet again
- wave

Amen.