

A Sermon for Trinity Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 6: 1 - 8 and Matt. 28: 16 - 20

Holy Trinity Sunday is celebrated on the First Sunday after Pentecost. After following all the gospel events over months, we conclude the journey with the question: Who is the God who saved and sanctified us?

The Trinity is not about asking the mathematical question about how 3 can be one and one can be 3. The Holy Trinity has been revealed to show us the character of God and his character is shown to us to bring us to worship, to being in awe and reverence! And **at the centre of God's character is that he is a relational God**. The essence of God is that he, from all eternity, exists as God in the relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God - the one and only true God. And the three ways of God's being are in perfect harmony, at peace. The best known Hebrew word is "Shalom" and means "the peace of God". When we wish each other "shalom" it means that we pray that the peaceful relationship that God has as the very essence of his being, will extend to us, to you! That, as God is in perfect harmony with himself, he will be in harmony with us as well.

Holy Trinity, as in essence God-in-relationship, desires us to share in his peace and harmony. The Father created us for this purpose and the Son came to give us this harmony by giving his life, his blood to take away the sin that stands between us and God and the Holy Spirit was sent to live in us to grant us faith and power in order to have a relationship with the Father through our relationship with the Son.

God calls us to be one with him and to then, in obedience to him, be commissioned by him and sent into the world to share his peace with those who still live outside a relationship with him.

1. The Vision of Isaiah:

Standing in the temple, Isaiah, had a vision which tells something about the Holy One and also about the prophet himself. God's presence is so large, he says, that the hem of the Lord's robe alone fills all of the temple space. This is immensity. Strange but faithful creatures surround the throne. Smoke obscures the whole scene. We are used to the images of fire and smoke, cloud and height being associated with God. It is all here. And, in comparison with that grandeur, we see ourselves, along with the prophet, as frail and inadequate, to say the least. But God's power to cleanse and make whole is ready to work in us. God stands ready to share his holy peace with us!

The vision is one of grandeur that lies outside the scope of our normal human experience. But it is firmly placed within the history of our world. The teaching of the Holy Trinity and about the most holy splendour of God is deeply intertwined with our lives. It is not a mathematical concept, but should be an experienced truth!

Faced with ultimate majesty, the prophet is brought to a realization about his own weakness. He has "unclean lips" and is unable to stand before the Holy One. He must be purified to remain alive in the presence of such holiness and splendour. An angel touched his mouth with a coal from the altar. This purification is not something he can do for himself.

But notice that the prophet, rather than being "called" by God to serve him, [volunteers to be the one sent](#). After being purified, his deepest desire is to forever be and serve the most holy One he encountered. Once cleansed, he sees himself as able to except the holy call.

On Holy Trinity Sunday, we are made aware of "the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored..." In response to this revelation we worship, with the heavenly host: "Holy, [holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory](#)". By singing the same song as the angels we too are invited to surround the throne to be cleansed and to be commissioned.

This is, of course, is exactly what we do here in God's presence: we stand before, beside, and around the signs of God's grace. We honour the vastness of God's power and holiness as we sing, as we pray and as we listen to the Word of God.

While this vision is about a prophet's call, it reaches beyond the individual prophet. It also makes us ready to worship and to live in God's presence.

But, who is the God that purifies in order to have a relationship with him? It is the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2. [Matt. 28: 16 - 20: Commissioned by the Holy Trinity](#)

By baptism in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are ordained into community and service of the most Holy Trinity!

It is the Triune God who sends us: Go!

Who commissions us: Teach!

Who assures us: I will be with you always!

Who reveals in and through Jesus Christ: "To me has been given all authority in heaven and on earth."

We too are called to "go" to where Jesus will meet us to be cleansed. We too are called to worship. We too are directed to the place where we will meet the living Christ. We too are called to share, in Christ, communion with the Holy Trinity, where Jesus meets his people, and shares with us the peace that is the essence of whom God is, through our relationship with Christ.

No one can make anyone follow Jesus. What the disciples had is the word from the living Christ that continues beckoning them to follow. What the disciples had is the word from the living Christ that beckons others to follow. His promise is that "I am with you always, to the end of time".

The Word keeps beckoning the worshipful to discipleship. And as we follow, as we go, as we worship, Jesus will prove his word, his presence, to be true.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God for his Word.

Let's now respond to God's Word by [confessing the Creed for Trinity Sunday](#)!

I believe in the one and only almighty God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in God the Father,
Creator and Sustainer of all things;

And in God the Son,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,
who suffered and died for our sins
and rose from the dead
for the sake of our eternal victory;

And in God, the Holy Spirit,
who assembles the Church,
convicts us of both sin and forgiveness,
and works eternal life in us. AMEN.

Ek glo in die enigste almagtige God:
Vader, Seun en Heilige Gees.

Ek glo in God, die Vader,
wat alles gemaak het en in stand hou.

En in God die Seun,
Jesus Christus, ons Verlosser en ons Here,
wat gely en gesterf het vir ons sonde
en uit die dood opgestaan het,
terwille van ons oorwinning.

En in God die Heilige Gees,
wat die Kerk versamel,
ons oortuig van sonde en vergifnis,
en die ewige lewe in ons werk. AMEN