

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Worship at Home

Sunday 30th May 2021

Welcome to worship with the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit.

Welcome to worship on this Trinity Sunday.

Let us worship God, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God in Trinity.

John 3 v 16

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

StF 17

With gladness we worship, rejoice as we sing,
free hearts and free voices how blessed to bring:
the old, thankful story shall scale thine abode,
thou King of all glory, most bountiful God

Thy right would we give thee- true homage
thy due,
and honour eternal, the universe through,
with all thy creation, earth, heaven and sea,
in one acclamation we celebrate thee.

Renewed by thy spirit, redeemed by thy Son,
thy children revere thee for all thou hast done.
O Father! Returning to love and to light,
thy children are yearning to praise thee aright.

We join with the angels, and so there is given
from earth Alleluia, in answer to heaven.
Amen! Be thou glorious below and above
redeeming, victorious, and infinite love!

Words George Rawson 1807 - 1889
Tune Datchet George Job Elvey 1816 - 1893

Let us pray:

A Prayer of Adoration

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, we worship and adore your holy name.

Holy Father, you have created all things and made us in your own image. We rejoice in the beauty of your creation and thank you for its richness and diversity.

Christ in glory, risen and ascended, you have redeemed us by your love and given us the promise of life eternal.

Holy Spirit, breathing life into all, we give you thanks for our many talents and abilities, for the powers of renewal and refreshment. We thank you for your church and our place within it.

A Prayer of Confession

Holy Father, we confess that we exploit and mar your creation. We hurt other people through our ignorance and wound them by our selfish and deliberate acts. We acknowledge our shortcomings and imperfections and ask for your grace and mercy, through the merits of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you that you give strength to the faint and power to the weak.

As we wait upon you, we thank you that you renew our strength to go out into the world as your gracious, forgiven people.

Father God, enable us to be creative.
Jesus, Son of God, enable us to redeem and restore that which is lost.
Holy Spirit, enable us to be your loving servants.

Amen.

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

This is the word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Reflection

Today is Trinity Sunday. You may know about a congregation who noticed that one of the villagers came to church once a year.

They couldn't work out why – it wasn't Christmas or Easter and not even the same date, although always a similar time of year. After a few years, they asked him why he came that day. He told them he always came on Trinity Sunday as he loved seeing the preacher tie him or herself in knots, trying to explain it!

Trinity Sunday, when we focus on the mystery of God as three persons, Father Son and Spirit.

If we think of ourselves, aren't we also known by many different titles? I am Lynda, a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, preacher and many more. I am sure it is the same for you – that you have many roles and relationships, all making up the rich tapestry that is you, unique and treasured.

I don't profess to understand fully the Trinity but I do know that at the centre of my faith is a belief that God the Father has created us in his power, God the Son saves us in his mercy and God the Spirit renews us in his grace.

I am reminded of the words of Julian of Norwich as she looks at a hazelnut and is amazed at three truths about such a tiny thing

The first is that God made it.

The second is that God loves it.

And the third, that God keeps it.

In the passage from Romans, we are reminded that, led by the Spirit and because of God's love in Christ, we are children of God. Not because of anything we have done first but rather we are loved and adopted by God as his children and his heirs. And in today's Gospel (used as our call to worship), we are reminded that *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life*. Another reminder of the wonderful truths we are celebrating on this Trinity Sunday.

So, what can we do today, faced by the mystery of the Trinity? Surely, we need to fall on our knees and open our hearts in worship, awe and thanksgiving that, like the hazelnut, God made us, he loves us and he keeps us.

Perhaps that is where some of us will rest today. But the passage from Isaiah calls us forward. Isaiah is captured by the wonder and glory of God and yet recognises how lost and unclean he is by comparison. I am sure we can all identify with that! But then he is made clean and *his sin is blotted out*. Then God calls him and he responds, '*Here I am. Send me!*'

This passage is read at every Methodist Ordination Service but is no less challenging for those of us called to a lay ministry. Whether it be in action, what we say or in our prayers, God is calling each and everyone us into his work of creation, loving and sustaining. It might be something very public, like the ordained Ministry. It might be supporting the work of the church or charity groups. Often it will be caring in practical ways or holding people and situations close in prayer. How many times in the past, especially over this past year, have we been grateful for the love of God, expressed by his faithful people in shopping and worship sheets delivered, a phone call or letter, listening ear, a hand holding ours (when the rules allow!) or knowing people are praying for us. And why do they do it? Because they have first been loved by God.

My grandfather was a man of faith, expressed in many practical ways. His favourite hymn was an old one about the transfiguration, 'Stay, Master, stay'. *

*Stay, Master, stay upon this heavenly hill;
A little longer let us linger still....
'No!', saith the Lord 'the hour is past', we go.
Our homes, our life, our duties lie below.
While here we kneel upon the mount of prayer,
The plough lies waiting in the furrow there!
Here we sought God that we might know his will:
There we must do it, seek him, serve him still.*

Today, on this Trinity Sunday we worship our God who creates, redeems and sustains. We wonder at that great mystery and rest secure in it's truth. We know we are loved and forgiven. We also know God calls us. Will we respond like Isaiah and say 'Here I am, Lord. Send me'?

StF 663

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
If you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain:
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Tune: Here I am, Lord.
Words and music Daniel L Schutte (b1947)

*Stay , Master, stay MHB 586 v1 & 3
Words Samuel Greg 1804 -1876

Prayers of intercession

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we bring to you our prayers and petitions for the world, for the church, for other people and for ourselves.

We pray for places of disunity and pain, such as the island of Ireland, Israel and Palestine and other places of conflict. We pray for all those who seek to bring about reconciliation and peace.

We pray for everyone suffering as a result of the pandemic, especially the people of India and other nations where COVID is rife. We pray for those who grieve and mourn and those who bear the mental and physical anguish and scars. We pray for those who care for them and for those who work in medical research and decision making.

We pray for the Church, especially the churches to which we belong. We pray for all who offer pastoral care and for those who provide regular worship opportunities. Unite us in your love.

We pray for ourselves, for our family and friends and especially those for whom we have particular concerns. In silence, we name them before you and ask you will surround them and us with your unfailing arms of love and mercy.

We gather all our prayers together in the words of **The Lord's Prayer**

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

StF 394

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love!

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live His way;
we need Your power, we need Your strength,
following Christ each day.

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.

Tune: Skye Boat Song arr Paul Leddington Wright
Words Margaret V Old 1932-2001

A Blessing

May the goodness of the Creator
and the grace of the Saviour
guide you in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
grant you and gift you his peace
now and always.

Amen.

Thank you for joining with us for worship,

Keith and Lynda Phipps