

Worship at Home – **Trinity Sunday 2020**

*Greetings to you all as we celebrate Trinity,
perhaps alone, in twos or even threes.*

Gen 1: 1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

StF 8

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ftfZDbpuJg)

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- 1 God with us: Creator, Father,
bringing everything to birth;
Mother of the whole creation,
fire of stars and life of earth:
down the countless years composing,
from the earth's evolving night,
love's response to love, and forming
mind and soul to seek your light.
- 2 God with us: Redeemer, Brother,
Friend for ever at our side,
here, in flesh, you walked among us,
taking up your cross, you died.
Crucified, despised, rejected,
Perfect Love, who shared our shame,
streaming from the cross, your judgement,
full of mercy, clears our name.
- 3 God with us: Unwearied Spirit,
from the birth of time and space,
surging through unconscious being,
joyful, Life-Creating Grace:
through the centuries you find us;
you, as God, inspire our prayer;
Life and Power at work within us,
Love for ever, everywhere!
- 4 God, Transcendent, far beyond us,
closest Friend, unfailing Guide:
through the ages, wronged, affronted,
in your poor, still crucified!
God with us: convict, forgive us;
by your holy love destroy
all that hinders peace and justice:
fill this aching world with joy!

Alan Gaunt (b. 1935)

Prayer (Collect for the Day)

Father God.

You have created all things
and through Christ revealed your salvation
in the world.

Give us a vision of your glory
and by your Holy Spirit fill us with life and love
that we may praise and serve you
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Let us join with God's creation to honour his
name, and give praise and thanksgiving, with
words adapted from Psalm 8 and a David
Adam prayer.*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, how majestic
is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory in the heavens.**

**When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
who are we, that you are mindful of us,
that you love and care for us?**

**Holy Father, you have created all things and
made us in your own image.
We come before you in wonder and awe.**

**Christ in glory, risen and ascended,
You have redeemed us by your love,
you give us life which is eternal.**

**Spirit of God, breathing life into all,
we give you thanks
for our talents and abilities,
for the powers of renewal and refreshment.**

**We pray that we and all your church may
reach out in love.
Yet, we find that hard to do.
We reject you; we reject each other,
turning a blind eye to each other's needs.**

**Your Spirit makes us aware of our need of love
and forgiveness,**

**Christ teaches, we can be cleansed of our sin,
and assured of that forgiveness.
Holy God, Holy and Strong One,
hear our prayer.**

**Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
One in Three, Three in One,
Bind us together in unity.
Bind us together in love.
Amen.**

StF 6:

<https://www.m.youtube.com/watch?v=QltVKW6wXdo>

1 Father, we love you,
we worship and adore you:
glorify your name
in all the earth.
Glorify your name,
glorify your name,
glorify your name,
in all the earth.

2 Jesus, we love you,
we worship and adore you:
glorify your name
in all the earth.
Glorify your name,
glorify your name,
glorify your name,
in all the earth.

3 Spirit, we love you,
we worship and adore you:
glorify your name
in all the earth.
Glorify your name,
glorify your name,
glorify your name,
in all the earth.

Donna Adkins (b. 1940)

Matt 28: 16-20

Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him – but some of them doubted!
Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the

nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this; I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Reflection

Today's act of worship began at the beginning – the very beginning of the Bible – at the very beginning of God's creation when heaven and earth were created, but the earth was formless and empty, with only the Spirit of God hovering over the waters.

When we look at our earth today, we see the beauty of what God had created by the end of Genesis 1, and sadly what we've created with our lack of good stewardship in the millennium since.

But, let's not overlook the work of the Spirit here. In the beginning the Spirit was hovering over the waters, watching what God did next. Then, remember how the Spirit descended on Jesus at his Baptism in the Jordan and began watching over what Jesus did too.

Last week, at Pentecost, the Spirit's time of watching and waiting was finally over. The Spirit blew in like a hurricane and settled like flames on the disciple's heads, as we read in Acts 2.

Finally, God's Spirit is ready for action; after patiently waiting all this time, the Spirit can set to work through these disciples, take them out into the world and spread the Good News. When you think about it, there's no wonder the Spirit blew in!

The reading from Matthew today, brings us to end of his Gospel, but leaves us with the Great Commission – go and make disciples of all people.

This is also the only reference we have to the mystery of the Trinity in our Bibles. Matthew reveals that Jesus is now placed at the right hand of God, reunited with the Father and the Spirit, and given all authority in heaven and on

earth – an authority that the disciples are now commissioned to act upon – “Therefore, go!”

Go - to make disciples; to baptise; to teach and to obey the Commandments.

We try to obey the last of these, but how much progress do we make, if any, with the first three? And how do we do that in Lockdown? This is our mission today, and it is in the Trinity that we can achieve it.

It is the Father we obey, it is the Son whose disciples we are, and it is the Spirit that baptises. Together we can see the Message spreading to all people in all nations.

In our modern age with the technology at our disposal, we even see glimpses of this during the pandemic. The online services, prayer groups and bible studies can be shared with friends around the world, and it is really pleasing to hear how more non-church folk are seeking prayers – and Jesus - at this time. It's easy to do an internet search, there's no fear of being observed, no staring faces, and no worry about not understanding what to say or do within a service – and you can come and go as you please!

In some respects we are like the disciples when Jesus spoke to them on the mountain. We worship, but we doubt. When can we gather in group worship again? How can we reach out to others when we are stuck at home? Well, actually, you don't have to go far. Matthew tells us that. Jesus sent his disciples back to the mountain where he first taught them, back home, to familiar territory.

I wonder, is there someone nearby who you feel the Spirit is asking you to speak to – over the road, or by phone, who would benefit from knowing God loves them at this time?

Our faith needs God, as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to help us stand firm. Our heavenly Father may seem far away, but Jesus walks beside us, and the Spirit fills us with love, joy and peace.

StF 663

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgLwH5RdtPk>

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.

2 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?

3 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?

Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947)

Prayers for others

**We come to you, Almighty God,
Holy one, beloved Trinity;
God beyond us,
God beside us,
God within us,
Hear us as we pray.**

**Holy Father, beyond us, reigning in glory,
We marvel at your creation,
But the world is covered in despair.**

**We pray for places where your earth is
exploited or marred,
Where your creatures are abused or misused.
We pray for all who lack freedom or are
oppressed,
For places of war and conflict.
Holy God, Holy and Strong One,
Hear our prayer.**

**Jesus, beside us, you understand our pain.
We pray to you for all who walk in darkness,
All who cry out in anguish,
All who feel beyond hope.
We remember all who are rejected and are
outcasts in our world.
We pray for the church,
May Ministers, Deacons and preachers
be empowered for the task you set them
to make disciples.
Give us the courage to share in that
responsibility too.
Holy God, Holy and Strong One,
Hear our prayer.**

**Spirit, within us,
Reassuring and strengthening
in times of need,
Be with all those we know and care about
who need your gentle touch today,
Especially ... *(Pause for personal prayer)*.
We pray for ourselves,
That the Spirit will give us the courage to use
the gifts God gave,
To be faithful and true,
Fruitful and giving.
Holy God, Holy and Strong One,
Hear our prayer.**

**God beyond us, give us faith
God beside us, give us peace
God within us, give us life,
Holy one, beloved Trinity. Amen.**

*Let us offer the prayer Jesus taught us
(you may like to sing it)*
**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.**

*Trace your finger, or use coloured pencils if
you've a printed copy, over the lines of the
Celtic Trinity symbol below
Imagine yourself as the circle in the centre,
consider God as Father, Son and Spirit at each
triangular point.
Consider how you are connected with God;
interwoven at all times, held safe and secure.
Reflect for a while on God's holy presence in
your life.*



From Coloring Pages from Pinterest.com

**Holy, holy holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty,
Holy, holy holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty.
Who was, and is, and is to come.
Holy, holy holy is the Lord.**

Blessing

The goodness of the Creator,
the grace of the Saviour,
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
be upon us;
and the blessing of the
Father, the Son and the holy Spirit
be with us always. Amen.

Kathy Lowrie
May 2020