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TRINITY C

12th June 2022

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

The God who is relationship,
Invites you into relationship today.
On this Trinity Sunday, when we give thanks for the three-in-oneness of our God,
Show me how to build, cherish and nurture those relationships in my own life,
And show me how to worship you.

Majestic creator,
In love you formed the heavens and the earth
And your works declare your glory
Thank you for giving us such beauty to behold
And a rich landscape to take delight in.
We respond to the good gifts of your creation
With thanksgiving and praise
For you alone deserve the glory,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Perfect in unity and love
Thank you for pouring your love into your creative works
And for revealing who you are in your redemptive acts.
Today, I glorify your name and rejoice in all you are

Amen.¹

You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer, in a version or translation with which you are most comfortable.

Hymn:

36 STF – There's a quiet understanding - [YouTube](#)

Readings: [Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31](#); [John 16:12-15](#)

Response to the readings

Use these questions and reflections to help you explore what these readings might mean for you today. Why not make some notes as you work through them?

Throughout Proverbs, we meet this personification of wisdom, as a woman who wants to be heard. She positions herself on the heights to enable her voice to travel down to the roads. She positions herself at the crossroads, in the hustle and bustle of the busy parts of town. She positions herself at the gates, where she can be heard by the decision makers. This town is full of wisdom's voice, they cannot say they didn't hear her.

¹ Opening prayers written by Claire Welch

- Where is wisdom's voice today? And how open are we, and our decision makers, to it?
- How has science and the study of creation helped you to gain greater understanding of God and his wisdom?
- In what ways do you delight in God's creation?
- What does it mean to you that God is mindful of you and cares for you?
- In what ways do we fulfil our role well and in what ways do we fall short?

In the reading from John's gospel, the disciples were not ready to hear all that Jesus had to teach them. Perhaps this is because certain events had to unfold, such as Jesus' death, resurrection, and exaltation, before they were able to grasp their full meaning, or perhaps they would find the information overwhelming and emotionally upsetting. Jesus' response reminds us that he is kind to us and attentive to our needs. The events to occur are not just regular events, they are extraordinary and world altering. To understand them they need God's help, the person of the Holy Spirit to reveal it to them. In this passage the Spirit of truth will carry on Jesus' role of teacher. The Spirit will not speak on his own, the message to be told and the truth to be revealed, has a trinitarian origin. For all that the Father has, also belongs to Jesus, and Jesus says the Holy Spirit will share what belongs to them. This reveals something of the inner working and intimacy between the persons of the Trinity. Just as Jesus has sought to bring glory to the Father, the Spirit will bring glory to Jesus.

- In what ways has Jesus been kind to you and attentive to your needs?
- How has the Holy Spirit been at work in revealing truth to you?²

Prayers of intercession

Creator God,

Today I pray for our leaders
and all those in decision making positions.
May they seek your guidance and wisdom.

In the stillness, let wisdom speak
And all who hear her respond.

[Hold a moment of quiet]

Creator God,

I thank you for scientists
and all those seeking to understand your world
and are acting to make it flourish.

May barriers to their work be removed
and new discoveries found.

In the stillness, let wisdom speak
And all who hear her respond.

[Hold a moment of quiet]

² Reflection written by Claire Welch

Creator God,
Move me, and all humanity, to care for your creation in a way that reflects your love.

Help me, and all of us, to make decisions that reduces the effects of climate change and stops damaging your world.

May each of us seek to create a world where all people can find delight in it.

In the stillness, let wisdom speak
And all who hear her respond.

[Hold a moment of quiet]

Amen.³

Blessing

From here, go on in search of grace,
From here, rise to seek relationship with the divine and with other people,
Forward you go, playing your part in a world of justice and peace.
Go by the Spirit of God, and in the mighty name of Jesus,
Amen.⁴

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 13th June

- Where do you get your 'wisdom' from? Perhaps it is one or more of these: reading, people in your life, preachers, Scripture, listening to the radio, watching documentaries, the internet...
- Today, give thanks for the sources of wisdom in your life and the people who help you to learn and grow.
- In your prayers, invite Lady Wisdom (a personification of God in the Old Testament) to speak to you.

Tuesday 14th June

- On this day in 1940, the German occupation of Paris (as part of German advances in the first part of World War II) began.
- Today, you could pray for all the people and communities who find themselves occupied by a foreign power. So much of the New Testament is written by and for a community experiencing occupation and invasion, but sadly, invasions are not a thing of the past.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine, of Syria, of Palestine, of Yemen, of Myanmar, and many others who have been oppressed and faced the violence of invasion.

³ Prayers of intercession by Claire Welch

⁴ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

Wednesday 15th June

- Just listen to your breathing for a moment. Notice the inhales and the exhales.
- Each time you inhale, breathe in all that is good, all that is holy, all that is divine.
- Each time you breathe out, let go of all that is painful, all that is sinful, that brings your shame and guilt and broken.
- Breathe in love.
- Breathe out hate.
- Breathe in God.
- Breathe out pain.
- Breathe in.
- Breathe out.
- Breathe.

Thursday 16th June

- Today is 'Bloomsday', the day the James Joyce's *Ulysses* takes place. *Ulysses* has been referred to as the greatest novel in the English language and all the action of the 800 pages takes place on one day, 16th June 1904.
- The novel ends with a simple sentence, which is a great affirmation of life: 'yes I said, yes I will, yes.'
- Today, may your encounters and your prayers be filled with 'yes', with affirmation, with positivity, with the belief that the future will be better than the past. We believe in a God of yes, a God of resurrections, a God of hope.

Friday 17th June

- The 19th June has been marked as 'Juneteenth' in parts of America for many years, but it was only this time last year that it was officially made a federal holiday, to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans.
- It was on this day last year that Joe Biden made this celebration an official holiday, and for that reason, let's use today as a day to pray for people and communities who continue to feel the impacts of racism.
- God of all grace, we pray for justice, for a world in which every person's value is recognised. Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Saturday 18th June

- Here I am, Lord, present to you.
Here I am, aware of this moment, this space, this time.
Here I am, seeking to know more of your desires for me and my life.
- God who is with us, be with me now, this moment, this hour, this day, this week.
Show me how to be here.
Amen.