

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP:

‘May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all’ (2 Cor. 13:14).

SONGS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, you heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
(Repeat)**

**Give glory to the Father,
Give glory to the Son,
Give glory to the Spirit
While endless ages run.
‘Worthy the Lamb’
All heaven cries,
‘To be exalted thus:’
‘Worthy the Lamb’
Our hearts reply,
‘For He was slain for us.’**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, you heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

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The splendour of the King

**The splendour of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice,
All the earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light
And darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at his voice
Trembles at his voice**

**How great is our God, Sing with me:
How great is our God,
And all will see how great,
How great is our God.**

And age to age he stands,

**And time is in his hands;
Beginning and the end,
Beginning and the end.
The God head, three in one,
Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb,
The Lion and the Lamb,**

**How great is our God, Sing with me:
How great is our God,
And all will see how great,
How great is our God.
How great is our God, Sing with me:
How great is our God,
And all will see how great,
How great is our God.**

**Then sings my soul my Saviour God to thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash © 2004 worshiptogether.com
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[How great thou art](#)

**O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art, how great thou art!'
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art, how great thou art!'**

**And when I think that God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die – I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art, how great thou art!'
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art, how great thou art!'**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration**

**And there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!'
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art, how great thou art!'
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art, how great thou art!'**

OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

Glory to you, O God:

**You raised Jesus from the grave,
Bringing us victory over death
and giving us eternal life.**

Glory to you, O Christ:

**For us and for our salvation
You overcame death
And opened the gate to everlasting life.**

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:

**You lead us into the truth
And breathe new life into us.**

**Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us confess our sins, that we may live in the freedom Christ has won for us.

If we have fallen into despair.

Lord, forgive us.

If we have failed to hope in you,

Lord, forgive us.

If we have been fearful of death,

Lord, forgive us.

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ,

Lord, forgive us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the living God raise you from despair, give you victory over sin and set you free in Christ. **Amen.**

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

- Maintenance morning – Saturday 8 June from 9.30am
- Youth evening – Saturday 8 June from 7pm

Offertory Hymn:

Teach Me To dance

**Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart,
Teach me to move in the power of Your Spirit,**

Teach me to walk in the light of Your presence,
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.
Teach me to love with Your heart of compassion,
Teach me to trust in the word of Your promise,
Teach me to hope in the day of Your coming,
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.

You wrote the rhythm of life,
Created heaven and earth;
In You is joy without measure.
So, like a child in Your sight,
I dance to see Your delight,
For I was made for Your pleasure, pleasure.

Teach me to dance...

Let all my movements express
A heart that loves to say 'yes',
A will that leaps to obey You.
Let all my energy blaze
To see the joy in Your face;
Let my whole being praise You, praise You.

Teach me to dance ...

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OFFERTORY PRAYER & PRAYER FOR SUNDAY CLUB

Father, we offer ourselves and these gifts into your keeping, turning towards the light of your love, that your Spirit may work within us and through us, to the praise of your holy name. **Amen.**

Father, we pray for each member of the Sunday Club, that they may discover the power of your Spirit and the wonder of your love, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

READING: John 14:23-31 – Alistair Nicoll

Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ 'All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do

not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸ 'You heard me say, "I am going away and I am coming back to you." If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. ³⁰ I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, ³¹ but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

REFLECTION: Who believes in the Trinity today?

Today is Trinity Sunday. The Sunday after Pentecost is traditionally Trinity Sunday. What is the Trinity all about? Who believes in the Trinity these days? When we baptise someone, we baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We Christians are Trinitarian in belief. We read in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians 'May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all' (2 Cor. 13:14). Now it is true that the word 'Trinity' is not in the Bible, and the doctrine of the Trinity was not formulated until the third and fourth centuries. Nevertheless, it is a belief that is revealed in Scripture.

To begin with we read in Genesis 1:26-27 where God says, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." We have the idea of the Trinity here in the first chapter of the Bible. That God is one yet the language is plural: "Let us make man in our own image." Then in the New Testament we read at Jesus' baptism the voice of God spoke and the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove. Father, Son and Spirit were present. And when Jesus commissioned the disciples to go out into all the world and make disciples of all nations, he called them to baptise in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:16-20). So, we see the God who is three in one in the pages of Scripture.

Now the doctrine of the Trinity has been both misunderstood and misinterpreted over the years. It was Thomas Jefferson, the Third President of the USA, who rejected belief in the Trinity. He called it 'incomprehensible jargon of the Trinitarian arithmetic.' Mind you, he not only rejected the doctrine of the Trinity but also rejected the miracles of Jesus and the atoning death of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus, and the doctrine of original sin. To Thomas Jefferson the doctrine of the Trinity was a mask to the true Jesus. But he was wrong, and I hope this morning to explain why he was wrong and why we should believe in the Trinity.

The word Trinity is shorthand for the tri-unity of God. Many people wonder how we can believe that God is three in one and one in three. Doesn't the Bible say that God is one? Yes, it does. The Jews every morning and evening will recite the Shema,

which declares, "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One..." (Deut. 6:4). As Christians we also believe that God is one. Christianity is a monotheistic faith rooted in Judaism. We don't believe in three gods, as some have suggested. So, how can God be one in unity and yet be Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Now there are all kinds of illustrations people use to help us understand the Trinity. People have used an egg to describe the Trinity – shell, white and yoke. Or a three-legged stool. Illustrations are intended to help us understand something difficult. I was once told the Trinity can be illustrated by H₂O, water. Water can be ice, water and steam. They are all H₂O. The trouble with that definition is that it falls into the heresy of modalism which states that God is not three distinct persons but one person in three modes or forms of activity. This was an idea developed by a guy named Sabellius in the third century, who taught that God is one, but said that God was the Father in the beginning, and then he changed and became a human being in Jesus, and then returned to heaven and became the Holy Spirit who filled the disciples of Jesus – three ways of being the one God. That belief called modalism was condemned as heresy. Others went the other way and said that because God is one, Jesus could not have been fully divine, but possibly only semi-divine, a superior created being. These people who believed this were called Arians. They followed Arius and their belief was condemned as heresy at the Council of Nicaea in 325AD. They denied the full deity of Jesus. There are Arians still today. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus was a created being and not eternally divine. Mormons believe that Jesus is also a created being. They say he is fully divine but not always eternal. And Modernism believes that human reason is a great gift of God but they deny so much of what is fundamental to our faith. John Shelby was an Anglican bishop who denied the inerrancy of Scripture, the virgin birth, the resurrection, and the divinity of Christ.

If you don't remember anything of what you hear this morning, please remember this: the definition of the Trinity is that God is one in Being and Three in Person. So, what's the difference between a Being and a Person. A Being is that quality that makes you what you are. You are a human being. Being is what makes you what you are. I am a human being, with heart and lungs and brain, with flesh and blood, skin and bones. That is what we are. We are not a lizard or a fish or even simply another mammal but we are a human, a human being; that's what we are. But that's not who we are. We are a human being but also a person. Person is who you are. Hopefully you and I are kind and compassionate persons. *What* I am is a human being. *Who* I am is a person, Mark Elvin. Do you see the distinction between the two? Who I am is very different from what I am. You and I are one being and one person.

God, however, is different. God, whom the Jews call YHWH, is one being, but he is three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three Persons are all equal because they are all God. And God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit all existed from the beginning, as John 1 tells us, because they are all God. So, if that is true, why does Jesus say "The Father is greater than I" (John 14:28) if they are all God? The answer is quite simple. If I pointed to the Prime Minister and said

that Rishi Sunak is greater than I, I would not be wrong. When he speaks people listen. When he tells someone to do something, they do it. He has all the power of the state at his fingertips and at his disposal. I don't. so, I can confidently say, the Prime Minister is greater than me. But is he any more human than I am? No. He is greater than me in terms of role but not greater than me in terms of essence. He is still just a human being. In the same way, the Father is greater than the Son in terms of role. We see this in 1 Corinthians 15:27-28 when it speaks of the Son, who is Jesus, being made subject to the Father, 'so that God may be all in all.' So, the Father is superior in terms of role but is he any more God than Jesus is? No. they are both God, equal in essence, distinct in person but nevertheless one God.

So, what about the Holy Spirit? Jesus said of the Spirit, "He will bring glory to me by taking what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you" (John 16:14-15). Jesus spoke of going away and sending the Holy Spirit, which is what we celebrated last week at Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the believers, empowering them for witness. He is called the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17). And in our reading we read, "But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). The Spirit was sent by the Father in order to glorify the Son. A Trinitarian balance.

So, to conclude, we need not be ashamed or confused by belief in the Trinity, the one God in three persons. We are children of our Heavenly Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ our Lord, and temples of the Holy Spirit, who makes us more like Jesus, bringing glory to the Father.

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, we worship you our Creator and the one who sustains the universe. We pray that we may live in your presence always and please you this day in every way. Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you, Saviour and Lord of the world. We pray that this day we may take up our cross and follow you. Holy Spirit, we worship you, sanctifier of the people of God. We pray that today you may fill us afresh with yourself, and cause your fruit to ripen in us. Three Persons in One God, we worship and adore you. Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Mike Gibbs

THE 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.**

SONG BEFORE COMMUNION

Let Your Living Water

**Let Your living water flow over my soul.
Let Your Holy Spirit come and take control
Of every situation that has troubled my mind.
All my cares and burdens on to You I roll.**

Father, Father, Father.

**Come now, Holy Spirit, and take control.
Hold me in Your loving arms and make me whole.
Wipe away all doubt and fear and take my pride,
Draw me to Your love and keep me by Your side.**

Spirit, Spirit, Spirit.

**Give your life to Jesus, let Him fill your soul.
Let Him take you in His arms and make you whole.
As you give your life to Him He'll set you free.
You will live and reign with Him eternally.**

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

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THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said "Peace be with you."
The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia!

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessing and honour, glory and power, are rightly yours, all-gracious God. By your creative word you brought the world to birth; in your generous love you made the human family, that we might see your glory and live for ever in your presence.

Blessing and honour, glory and power, are rightly yours, all-gracious God.

When we wandered from you in our sin you sought us with your steadfast love and did not give up on us. In the fullness of time you sent your Son to be our Saviour and Deliverer. Being fully human, he lived our life and died our death upon the cross. Yet death could not hold him for your love is stronger than death.

Blessing and honour, glory and power, are rightly yours, all-gracious God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we bless and praise your glorious name, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed indeed is the Lord Jesus Christ who, at supper with his friends, took bread and gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to them and said: 'Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

When supper had ended, he took the cup and gave you thanks, gave it to them, and said: 'Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for everyone, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.'

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Therefore, Father, we celebrate this Passover of gladness; for as in Adam we die, so in Christ we shall all be made alive. Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Gather us, who share this feast, into the kingdom of your glory that with all your people in every time and place we may praise and worship you forever. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Risen Saviour, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the love of God our Father, to whom we give praise and glory forever.

Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE

We meet the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread. Let us draw near with faith.

The body of Christ broken for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, we thank you for our communion with the risen Christ and with all who love him in earth and heaven. We pray that, strengthened by his grace, we may serve you faithfully all our days; through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

CLOSING SONG:

Holy, Holy, Holy

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! - merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wast, and art, and evermore shall be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! - though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea:
Holy, holy, holy! - merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)
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CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Lord our God, we worship and adore you, for in your Son Jesus we have life and hope now and for ever. We go in your name and in the power of the Spirit declaring the truth that Jesus is Lord. **Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve and share the Lord
In the name of Christ. **Amen.**