

St James' Church, Weybridge

Trinity Sunday

On this Trinity Sunday we confess our faith in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, eternally three and eternally one. So, we lift our hearts in worship to the Triune God who shares his life with us and calls us to share in his work in the world.

Today's Readings

First Reading 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

St Paul concludes his letter to the Corinthians with the words we call "the Grace", an early prayer for the blessing of God the Three-in-One.

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

Those who believe the disciples' message and become followers of the risen Jesus will be baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Sermon *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* (Matthew 28:19)

A professor at theological College, asked the Ordinands in Training for ministry to explain the Holy Trinity. One student quickly raised his hand and said it, "it's like water. It can be ice, liquid or steam – but still H₂O. The professor nodded, but before he could continue another student said, "The Trinity is like my Wi Fi. Same signal, three different devices, and still, I cannot explain why it works".

Over the years many a preacher has tried to explain the theological concept of The Trinity - the belief that God exists as one Being in three co-eternal Persons: The Father (Creator), the Son (Redeemer), and the Holy Spirit (Sustainer). The three ways of knowing God the one God. The word "Trinity" does not appear in the Gospels, but Jesus speaks of God as having three persons, so we find Today's Gospel and the Great Commission when our Lord instructs his disciples to: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit " This is a pivotal moment in the Christian story: Jesus is saying that his own relationship with God is now to be opened up, available to all people; they are to be baptised (or "immersed") into the life of God the Trinity. This follows nicely on from last week (Pentecost Sunday) when I talked about the blessings of the Holy Spirit, filling us with new life, renewing us, changing, indeed transforming us from glory to glory. I explained how the spirit fell upon the first disciples and how that same spirit is breathed upon us, the church today.

Let's think further about Jesus' relationship with God. Over the past few weeks in the Gospel readings, we have witnessed Jesus in prayer with the Father. There has been a constant sense of himself as the Son, loved by the God whom he addressed directly as his Father.

And Jesus doesn't speak only of the Father; Jesus knows the love and guidance of the Father through a distinct personal presence whom he calls the Holy Spirit, which he breathed on his disciples, as we heard last Sunday, to advocate for them.

At our Lord's baptism in the River Jordan, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus like a dove, and we hear the Father saying, "You are my beloved Son." Jesus is commissioned for the work which lies ahead of him – a vital function of the Holy Spirit. The love of the Father is

poured out through the Spirit on the Son and returned in the loving obedience of the Son to the Father, again through the Spirit. This is God the Trinity, the Three-in-One, the God who is loving relationship in God's very self. And this has always been so; from eternity God has been Trinity. But in the life of Jesus, God made flesh, we see much more of the Trinitarian life of God active in our world. In coming among us and sharing in our humanity, Jesus unites us with the Father, raising our humanity to meet divinity. And Jesus sends the spirit to continue his work in and through us, today.

So, a new relationship with God is opened to us. We are invited to join in the relationship of love that flows within the life of God, that has been there from the very beginning, when the spirit hovered over the waters and God proclaimed, let there be light – Jesus was there too. Our Lord literally takes our humanity by the hand and says, "Come with me and be led by the Spirit into the presence of the God I know as Father." We are to share in the life of the God who is love.

"God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So, we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world." (1 John 4: 15-17)

When we were baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Spirit, we were immersed into the very life of the Trinity; Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who is love. And as we see in Jesus, that life isn't static, but active, outgoing, self-giving. From his baptism onwards, our Lord's relationship with God is all about mission, the life-giving, renewing, liberating desire for God to renew relationships, that we may flourish in this world.

On this Trinity Sunday may we and the whole Church of Christ be renewed in our faith in the God who is love, for all time and eternity; and may we respond with joy and obedience to the call of Jesus to go and Baptize – to be disciples today as we share in God's life and participate in God's mission in the world, beginning here in Weybridge.

This relationship of love requires our consent, our participation, and is only possible because the Holy Spirit is given that we may be disciples in the world today, active Christians – not just in church, but in every aspect of who we are. We are commissioned as Christians and sent out to be people of faith – how exciting that is!

Through Jesus, who is the way to the Father, we are drawn into the Trinity of love and baptised into union with Jesus and each other. That relationship involves sharing both in the life of God and the mission of God in this world, as a disciple today, living out God's love for all.

And the Holy Spirit, God's presence guides and equips us, advocates for us. The Spirit fills the whole world – it is not just found here in worship, but everywhere, in all creation. The Trinity is calling us to be the people of God, today, now and always. The Trinity of love is with us always. And Jesus has commissioned us to draw others to that love, 'Baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.' Amen.

Father Damian Harrison-Miles, May 2026.