

# Service 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## Trinity Sunday

### Prayers of Approach

God calls us in this moment.

Jesus welcomes us to this moment.

The Spirit unites us in this moment.

Come and worship!

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
as we gather in this moment,  
we celebrate your welcome.

Speak to us; challenge us; reassure us.

Take what we offer in worship and praise  
that your name may be glorified now and for  
ever.

Father God, you are full of joy and love.

You delight in the world you created.

What love you have for us, all created in your  
image.

We love you and adore you.

What delight you have in the Son,  
who is all that you are and who you sent in love  
in order that we may be in relationship with you.

We adore you and glorify your name.

What joy and pleasure you had in sending your  
Holy Spirit

to guide us in all truth and make you known to us.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we give you all glory.

Lord God,

you are bigger than our imaginations,

beyond our words or description,

and yet you call us to your heart

and invite us to join your dance.

Accept our praise and inspire our worship

that we may draw closer to you and to one  
another.

**Amen.**

*Hymn Father, we love you, we worship and adore  
you (R&S 30, MP 142)*

**Readings:** Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

John 16:12-17

### Introduction

On Trinity Sunday, we think about God as Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit and reflect on how God invites  
us in to be part of that community. We ask  
ourselves how we could, in turn, include others to  
be part of God's welcome.

The passage from Proverbs introduces us to the  
woman called Wisdom, one expression of the  
creative role of the Spirit within the Godhead. She  
can advise human beings how to live because she  
has the knowledge that comes from seeing the  
act of creation, and her advice reflects nature  
itself, for divine order and stability were built into  
the universe through her.

The Gospel reading is part of a longer passage  
where Jesus explains the work of the Holy Spirit  
to his disciples. There is much for the disciples to  
understand, but Jesus reassures his friends that  
they know enough for now, and the Holy Spirit  
will come to guide them into a greater  
understanding in the future. What was true for  
the disciples is true for us too. Our experience of  
God grows and develops, it is informed by the  
past, and we will always have more to learn and  
understand. But we live in the now, and the Holy  
Spirit will give us what we need to do that.

*Hymn O God, your love's undying flame (R&S 327)*

### Sermon

You have probably all heard the saying, "two's  
company, three's a crowd" meaning that two  
people can get on together (especially in matters  
of love) but that the addition of another will  
create competition and rivalry thus leading to  
arguments and enmity. There is another school of  
thought however that advocates there should  
always be an odd number so that when there is a  
difference of opinion there will always be a  
"casting vote". But how and what does this have  
to do with a God who is one, and definitely only  
one?

Most of us, including ministers, find the Trinity a  
difficult concept to understand but the very fact  
that it is such a complicated subject gives the  
Trinity an air of mystery and inspires the  
imagination. Throughout the ages the Trinity has  
inspired great works of art and has led to many  
ingenious attempts to explain how one God can  
be three, and yet three is still one. St. Patrick  
famously used a shamrock to explain – a leaf with  
three lobes (representing Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit) but just the one leaf (one God).

What can the Bible tell us about the Trinity  
though? In the Hebrew scriptures there is no  
mention of such a confusing concept since the  
Jewish people were very sure that there is one

God, and only one God. And yet throughout what we think of as the Old Testament there is mention again and again of the 'Spirit of God'. From the very beginning the Spirit is active, hovering over the waters of creation. In today's reading from Proverbs we meet Wisdom, who declares that she was created at the beginning of God's work and was present before the earth was shaped. Although Wisdom is not involved in the act of creation and is merely an observer she reminds us that God was not alone.

It is not until the New Testament however that we finally meet the idea of God as a Trinity. At the beginning of his Gospel John identifies Jesus as the 'Word', the agent of creation, existing alongside God and the Spirit at the very beginning. Throughout the Gospel Jesus talks of his relationship with his Father and then promises that when he returns to the Father he will send a helper, the Spirit of truth, who will guide them. John's Gospel then gives us a revelation of God, introducing us to Jesus, the 'Son of God' who is 'one' with the Father, who was present in the act of creation, and who sends the Holy Spirit that we too might be one with him.

'The Spirit of truth', underlines the link with Jesus as the truth. Like him, the Spirit is sent by God to teach God's truth. The Spirit as teacher and guide will enable Jesus' disciples to understand what he means when he calls them to 'love one another as I have loved you'

The early church very quickly adopted the blessing, 'in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit'. It was a way of expressing that mystery that was at the centre of their lived experience of God, a God who later came to be described as 'three in one and one in three' or simply as the Trinity. The word trinity comes from the Latin *trinitas*, which means 'three-ness'. At the heart of the Trinity is an invitation. It is not a mathematical formula meant to confuse us but a community of love that invites us to join in.

In this community, with others and with God – we allow the future to be created together. The ability to listen to others, and to hear God, is what we might call wisdom. Wisdom is found, in busy places – at crossroads, at gates, places of transition and decision. These are the places in which we should listen most clearly for wisdom, and try to hear the divine conversation that the

Spirit invites us to enter into. It's a three-way conversation that draws us in to discover more of God and causes us to be changed by that intimate participation in the very life of God.

*Hymn Father in heaven, grant to your children (R&S 28)*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

The peace that comes through God invites us in.  
The grace that Jesus brings invites us in.  
The love of the Spirit invites us in.  
God, the most mysterious and awe-inspiring Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
we lay aside our own humble concerns, accept your invitation, and enter your glorious presence.  
But as we worship you we are aware that our world is in great need of your peace, hope and love and so...

Holy Trinity,  
we bring to you in our prayers those  
whose relationships are breaking down;  
**and we pray for your healing.**

We think of relationships that have gone wrong  
and have caused division and bitterness;  
**and we pray for your healing.**

We think of relationships between nations  
where there is hostility, tension and mistrust;  
**and we pray for your healing.**

We think of our relationships  
where we feel inadequate or helpless or used;  
**and we pray for your healing.**

And we thank you for your relationship with your world,  
and with your Church, and with each one of us.  
**Amen.**

*Hymn Thou whose almighty word (R&S 38, MP 699)*

### **Blessing**

May the strength of almighty God support you,  
may the love of Jesus the Son surround you,  
and may the wisdom of the Spirit inspire you,  
this day and for evermore.

**Amen.**

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