**There are three that testify in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.** *1 John 5.7*



**A service of readings, reflection and prayers for Trinity Sunday**

**The Gathering**

As we gather in our homes, Peace to you from God our heavenly Father. Peace to you from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace. Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver. May the peace of the triune God be with you always.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength; ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name. The whole earth is full of his glory.

The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

**Psalm 8**

**1**Lord, our Lord,
    how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory
    in the heavens.
**2**Through the praise of children and infants
    you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
    to silence the foe and the avenger.
**3**When I consider your heavens,
    the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
    which you have set in place,
**4**what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
    human beings that you care for them?[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14017c)] **5**You have made them[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14018d)] a little lower than the angels[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14018e)]
    and crowned them[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14018f)] with glory and honour.
**6**You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
    you put everything under their[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14019g)] feet:
**7**all flocks and herds,
    and the animals of the wild,
**8**the birds in the sky,
    and the fish in the sea,
    all that swim the paths of the seas.

**9**Lord, our Lord,
    how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever and ever. Amen.

**Reflection Matthew 28 16-20,** *by Cath Eccles, one of our ordinands*

This week I’ve been reflecting on the horrific treatment and death of George Floyd. Trying to make sense of it is impossible as I have never and will never face that level of prejudice and hate. I wanted however to try and write something that might begin to reflect on how I feel and what I should be doing as a Christian around the events in the US this week.

Reading and reflecting on the gospel of today is a passage that is so familiar to me. The commissioning of the disciples is Jesus’s last recorded conversation with his friends. It is maybe his last gasp attempt to light the fire within them, to extinguish their doubts. It is a short and specific command. Jesus has **all** authority given to him, we are to make disciples of **all** nations, we are to teach that we should obey **all** that he commanded during his earthly life, and the promise that closes is that he will be with us **always**. What jumped out at me which never had before is the use of all and always. It is as inclusive a statement as you will need to show that we should all be equal under God. The purpose of God is to be reconciled with all humanity, which includes every nationality and race. Jesus' ministry was primarily limited to the Jewish people throughout Matthew's gospel, but here the boundaries are now expanded to include all humanity. Thus the commission has an international scope. Jesus here says that they are to *make disciples* of all nations.

For us to evangelise to people exactly like us is not Jesus' intent; rather, Jesus has in mind a task that is a lot harder. He is for everyone. Our actions should reflect our beliefs. Statements of faith are important within communities, but Matthew reminds us that faith without appropriate behaviour is empty. So on this Trinity Sunday we are reminded that as Christians we are baptised in the name of the trinity. We are all the church; we are all the body of Christ we are all adopted in to the family of Christ. While on Earth Jesus said “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”. And for us to show this, to live this is more important than ever. To stand with our fellow brothers and sisters in the face of oppression and to speak out against hate. This is our commission. Please join me in praying for peaceful protests, black lives matter and the family of George Floyd. Maya Angelou said “We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their colour.

**A Reading from Matthew 28 vv 16 to 20**  *The Great Commission*

**16**Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17**When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18**Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**Prayers**

We pray for our world for the ill and bereaved and those who have died. We continue to pray for our national and local politicians and all whose decisions will affect our lives in the weeks and months ahead. We pray for the family of George Floyd and others who have lost their lives in recent days in USA and around the world at the hands of others. We pray for the family of Madeleine McCann. Today we give thanks to God for the ministry of Sentamu, Archbishop of York and pray for him and his family as he retires from office.

Lord, you are my hiding place, a shelter from the storm, a protection from the heat; I rest under the cover of your wing. Your love us all around me, above me to uplift me, beneath me to support me, behind me to protect me, before me to guide me, around me to shield me, within me to strengthen me. Lord, you are my hiding place this day and for ever, this day and for ever. Amen.

**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,

you have given us your servants grace,

by the confession of a true faith,

to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity

and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:

keep us steadfast in this faith,

that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen

**The Lord’s Prayer**

With Christians north and south, east and west, Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic, as our saviour taught us so we pray.

Please join me in praying the Lord’s Prayer in its traditional form.

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.

Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise, more than we can utter, more than we can conceive, be to you, most holy and precious Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, by all angels, all people, all creatures, for ever and ever. Amen