

**Trinity Sunday**  
**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020**



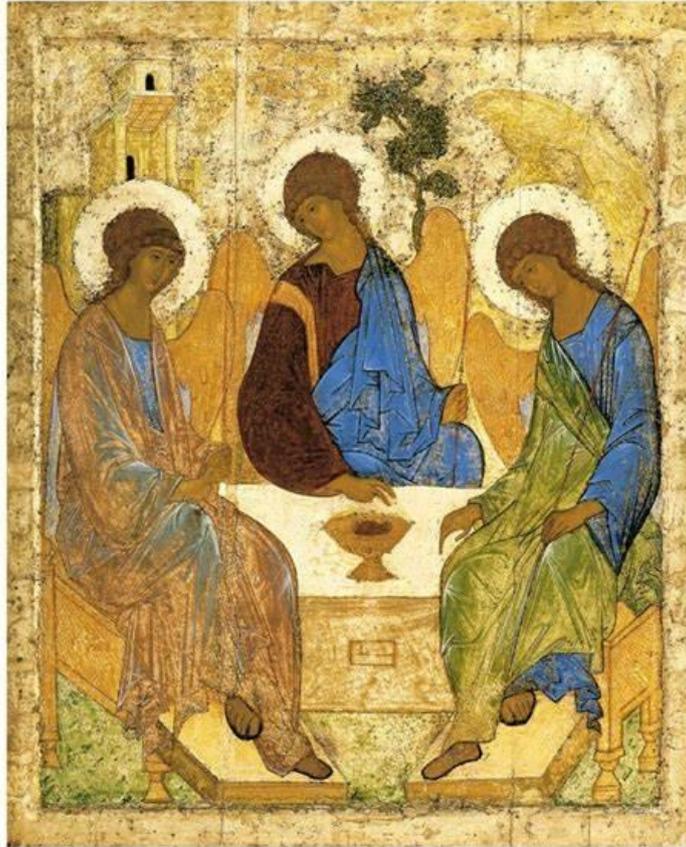
Dear Friends in Christ,

***'I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*** (Matthew 28:20)

This weekend, we celebrate the holy Trinity of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In years past, our Benefice has enjoyed the privilege of sharing our Trinity Sunday worship with an 11am outdoor service at Northwood Park Farm, thanks to the generosity of Nicholas and Julia Craig Harvey. Sadly, this year, because of Coronavirus restrictions, we are unable to gather together to worship and to share Holy Communion. Nor are we able to share the family meal our five parishes have enjoyed in years past - spending time together in fellowship, and deepening vital bonds of relationship through the slow light of the Eucharist.

Instead, this year, our Ministry Team has created a 'virtual' service! We very much hope you will join us at 11am on Sunday morning and spend an hour in worship from your own home, knowing that many others across our Benefice will be doing the same thing. You will find our service video on The Downs Benefice Website. If you have never tried to access the website before, it is very easy. Just type in 'The Downs Benefice' to your Google search, click on the link and the Virtual Trinity Service will be on the first 'Home' page of the Website. Of course, the video is available for you to watch at any time you choose – but it would be good if as many of us as possible could share this hour in 'virtual' communion and Christian togetherness.

Times of trial are also opportunities to try new things. There are some wonderfully creative contributions from the children of Sparsholt Primary School – both from Year 6 pupils who have returned to school this past week, and from those who are working from home. We have uplifting insights to the Holy Trinity, using the concept of a stained glass window and an apple! Intrigued? Be sure to join our young theologians as they break open the mystery of the Three: one God in Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our thanks are with Jane Gwilliam, who has not only managed the phased return to school of her Year 6 class this week, with all the headaches of ensuring social distancing and other safety measures, but has also found time to mastermind the school's contribution to our service. How *does* she do it?



***'Icon of The Holy Trinity' by Andrei Rublev***

It is a great joy to welcome Archdeacon Richard Brand to our 'virtual' service, and this comes with many thanks to him for sharing his vision of the generosity of God, poured out through the Trinity.

Through Jesus we are drawn into relationship with God the Father, and with the Holy Spirit. Through our faith, we become part of the relational action of the Trinity which has love at its source. Jesus models to us how risky it is to love, how risky it is to offer ourselves in God's service, yet He also shows us how sublime the reward for that faith, which is eternal life with the very Being of love.

Richard of Saint Victor, who died in 1173, was a Medieval Scottish philosopher and theologian, and became one of the most influential religious thinkers of his time. He wrote a great deal on the Trinity and one of the most beautiful things he said, sounds to me very modern:

For God to be good, God can be one. For God to be loving, God has to be two because love is always a relationship. But for God to be supreme joy and happiness, God has to be three. For lovers do not know full happiness until they both delight in the same thing, like new parents with the ecstasy of their first child. The Holy Spirit is the shared love of the Father and the Son, and shared love is always happiness and joy. The Holy Spirit is whatever the Father and the Son are excited about; She is that excitement—about everything in creation!



***'Yew Tree with Bonfire Smoke at Crawley' by Patricia Elkington***

My thanks to Archdeacon Richard; to Jane Gwilliam and her Year 6 Worship Team; to Deirdre Wratten for allowing me to record her accomplished playing; to Charlotte Nash, Andrew Kent and Alastair Barron from our Benefice Ministry Team; to Norman de la Mouette who has contributed a moving Gospel reading from the glory of his garden to mark his retirement from The Downs Benefice, and which holds in every fragrant petal, the poignant memory of his dear wife and friend to our parishes, Brenda. Huge thanks are due to Eleanor Dunlop and Henry Gwilliam. I do not think I have ever heard a more beautiful version of Amazing Grace. These two gifted individuals have returned this hymn to the sublime spirituality of the original Negro prayer. Bless them both. Without the skills of Henry and his father, Robert Gwilliam, our recordings would not have become the crafted video you see today. And without the technical gift of John Little, the video would never have found its way onto our Benefice Website!

So join me now, in the mystery of the Trinity as we share together a service of Holy Communion, filmed in the Wild Flower Meadow of St Catherine's Church, Littleton. My thanks to Ray Hillyer for his tireless work in keeping the meadow so beautifully.

An Order of Service is set out below so that you can join in with the hymns, and is also available to download on the Website.

Yours, in the eternal union of the Three,

**Jax**

**Revd Jax Machin**, Rector, The Downs Benefice

## Order of Service of Holy Communion for Trinity Sunday



***'Three Candles' by Marc Chagall***

*Our usual celebrations of Holy Communion in our churches derive from the real meal which Jesus shared with his disciples. In turn, we look forward to something much greater—a feast in the Kingdom of Heaven, where our sharing is not just a morsel, but a fully satisfying feast with God and all of Creation. Both in our homes today, and when our services are restored to our church buildings, we experience a foretaste of a much fuller reality. As we anticipate the time when we can meet once more and share Communion together may the slow light of the Eucharist hold us in the love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

~

*During the service, our Organist, Deirdre Wratten, will be playing the hymns. Please join in as you wish. Words to all the hymns used in the service can be found in this service sheet.*

## ***Welcome – as Families from Sparsholt School light candles***

*Priest* God for us, we call you Father.  
God alongside us, we call you Jesus  
God within us, we call you Holy Spirit.  
You are the eternal mystery that  
enables, enfolds, and enlivens all things,  
even us and even me

*Richard Rohr*

### ***Greeting***

*Priest* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

### ***Praising and Thanking God***

*Priest* God who is one  
**All You create us all in diversity.**

*Priest* God who is Three,  
**All You draw us into unity.**

*Priest* We give thanks for the Three who are love.  
**All We give thanks for the Three who are here.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.  
**All The Lord bless you.**

### ***Opening Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise***

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the ancient of days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

*W. Chalmers Smith*

***Confession – we say sorry to God***

Do people see God when they look at us? Do they hear Jesus' words of welcome and hope when we speak? Do they see the fresh Spirit acting in our lives? In these moments, we must be honest with God as to how we have not lived up to our calling to be His people.

**All**            **Good God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
our host through all eternity,  
gathered here, we rejoice that Your spirit  
permeates all creation,  
inspiring Your earth to bring forth  
food and drink, energy and life,  
that we may now offer this back to You,  
who gives so much to us. Amen.**

***Absolution – God forgives us***

*Priest*            May our creator God, who comes to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
bring you new life, forgive and redeem you, and encourage you to live  
in His light and make you holy to serve Him in the world.

**All**            **Amen.**

***Collect Prayer for Trinity Sunday - read by Charlotte Nash, LLM***

*Priest*            Spirit of Holiness, you are Creation's Architect,  
you are the Word made flesh;  
you are the fire that cleanses us by dancing in our hearts.  
O bracing wind that drives away our sins,  
fill us with your mighty strength;  
bless us with belief in your Threeness.  
And through our confession of the Oneness,  
set up your Kingdom in our midst.  
Renew us and all the world this Trinity Sunday  
Through Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All**            **Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### *Bible Reading – Acts 4: 32-37 - read by Andrew Kent, DL*

#### The Believers Share Their Possessions

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

*After the reading we say:*

*Reader*            This is the word of the Lord.  
**All**                    **Thanks be to God.**



*'Throne of Mercy' by Albrecht Dürer*

## ***Gradual Hymn: Love Divine***

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.**

*C. Wesley*



***Gospel Reading – Matthew 28: 16-20 - read by Revd Norman de la Mouette***

*Reader* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Commissioning of the Disciples

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

*After the reading we say:*

*Reader* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All** **Praise to you, O Christ.**



***'Triune Heart of the Universe' – Stushie Art***

***Talk:***

We welcome ***The Venerable Richard Brand, Archdeacon of Winchester*** to speak into the Word of God.

## ***Statement of Faith***

*Priest*

Let us share our faith in God, by saying together:

***All***

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with His love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## ***Prayers for the World - led by Alastair Barron***

Let us pray to God,  
who alone makes us dwell in safety:  
For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:  
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,  
and shaping national policies,  
that they may make wise decisions:  
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:  
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the vulnerable and the fearful,  
for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know your comfort and peace:  
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us**

We worship you with all our lives,  
We are obedient to you with all our power,  
We give you praise with all our strength,  
We give you honour with all our speech.  
We give you love with all our hearts,  
We give you affection with all our senses,  
We give you our being with all our minds,  
We give you our souls, O most high and holy God.  
Praise to the Father,  
Praise to the Son,  
Praise to the Spirit,  
The Three in One.

*Adapted from Alexander Carmichael, Carmina Gadelica (1900)*

*Priest* We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.  
Merciful Father,  
**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### ***The Peace***

*Priest* Peace to you from God who is our Father.  
Peace to you from Jesus Christ who is our peace.  
Peace to you from the Holy Spirit who gives us life.  
The peace of the Triune God be always with you.

**All And also with you.**

**All God's peace be with us all. Amen.**



***'Trinity' – Stushie Art***

**Offertory Hymn: Amazing Grace**

Sung by **Eleanor Dunlop** and accompanied by **Henry Gwilliam**

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far  
and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me  
his word my hope secures  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.*

*When we've been there a thousand years  
bright shining as the sun  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we first begun.*

*John Newton/ (v5) John Rees*

**The Children of Sparsholt School bring us a unique understanding of the Holy Trinity.**



**'Perichoresis –Praying the Great Dance' - Anon**

## ***The Eucharist***

***Priest***      The Lord is with us.  
***All***            **His Spirit is here.**

*Priest*            The time came for them to eat the Passover meal. Jesus and the apostles were together at the table. Jesus said to them, 'I wanted very much to eat this Passover meal with you before I die. I will not eat another Passover meal until it is given its full meaning in God's kingdom.'

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, '*This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.*'

In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, '*This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you; do this in remembrance of me.*'

***Luke 22: 14-16; 19-20***

***All***            **Christ has died**  
**Christ is risen**  
**Christ will come again.**



***'The Trinity - Gottes Not/God's need' by Jusepe de Ribera***

## ***The Lord's Prayer***

*Priest* Let us say together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

***All*** **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,  
Forever and ever,  
Amen.**

## ***Holy Communion***

*Priest* Almighty God  
Our Heavenly Father,  
In your tender mercy  
Send us your Holy Spirit.

***All*** **Jesus, Lamb of God  
Have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins:  
Have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world:  
Give us your peace.**

*We receive 'virtual' Holy Communion*

*'Where two or three are gathered, Jesus is with us' (Matt 18.20), so that when we invite the Holy Spirit to be with us, the Spirit truly comes; and when we remember Jesus as we eat bread and drink wine, we are strengthened and encouraged by Jesus' love.*



***'A Trinity of Persons and Love' - Anon***

***Post Communion Hymn: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go***

***O love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee:  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller, be.***

***O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee:  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.***

***O joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee:  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be.***

***O cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee:  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.***

*George Matheson, John Bunyan Herbert*



***'Royal Dance' by Chidi Okoye***

### ***Post Communion prayer***

*Priest* Almighty and eternal God,  
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:  
hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways  
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,  
who are three Persons yet one God,  
now and for ever.

***All*** **Amen.**

### ***Final Hymn: Praise My Soul***

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like he tends and spares us,  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
praise with us the God of grace.**

*H.F. Lyte (1793-1847)*



***'Dance of the Trinity' by Michele Myers***

***The Blessing***

*Priest*      The blessing of the Source of life be yours.  
The blessing of the Saviour be yours.  
The blessing of the Spirit be yours.  
The blessing of the Three be yours.  
May they pour upon you in mercy, hour by hour.  
And the blessing of God Almighty ...

***All***            **Amen.**

*Priest*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***All***            **In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***Closing Music: 'The Trumpet Tune' by Henry Purcell***

*Played by Deirdre Wratten*



*The parishes within the Downs Benefice have been licenced by the CCLI to reproduce words and music of hymns and other worship songs under licence nos. 135211, 16921, 1961367 & 1961374.*

*All hymns and music used in the production of this service are in the Public Domain and we have confirmed with CCLI that no further licences are required for us to post the video recording on The Downs Benefice website.*