

# The Bride Valley Telephone Service for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## Trinity Sunday

### *Opening Scripture*

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honour. *Psalms 8:3-5*

1 How shall I sing that Majesty  
which angels do admire?  
Let dust in dust and silence lie;  
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.  
Thousands of thousands stand around  
thy throne, O God most high;  
ten thousand times ten thousand sound  
thy praise; but who am I?

2 Thy brightness unto them appears,  
whilst I thy footsteps trace;  
a sound of God comes to my ears;  
but they behold thy face:

**First Hymn:** *How shall I sing that majesty*  
they sing because thou art their sun:  
Lord, send a beam on me;  
for where heaven is but once begun,  
there alleluias be.

3 How great a being Lord, is thine,  
which doth all beings keep!  
Thy knowledge is the only line  
to sound so vast a deep:  
thou art a sea without a shore,  
a sun without a sphere;  
thy time is now and evermore,  
thy place is everywhere.

*John Mason (c.1645-1694) CCLI Licence 2370586*

### *Prayer of Confession*

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.  
For turning away from you and ignoring your will for our lives;  
Father, forgive us: **Save us and help us.**  
For failing you by what we do and think and say;  
Father, forgive us: **Save us and help us.**  
For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world around us;  
Father, forgive us: **Save us and help us.**  
For living as if we are ashamed to belong to your Son;  
Father, forgive us: **Save us and help us.**

### *Absolution*

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### *Praise*

Blessed is the Lord, **for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**  
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy, **and in our song we will praise our God.**

### *Collect*

**Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**First reading: Isaiah 40. 12-17, 27-end**

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counsellor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

**Second reading: 2 Corinthians 13. 11-end**

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**Hymn: Thou whose almighty word**

1 Thou whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the Gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.

2 Thou, who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
let there be light.

3 Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move o'er the water's face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.

4 Blessed and holy Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide  
let there be light.

**Gospel reading Matthew 28. 16-end**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped 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.'

**Reflection**

Those words from Psalm 8 instantly transport us to moments of wonder, awe and mystery when we've gazed up into the night sky, or when we embarked on midnight expeditions to places far from street lights on balmy summer evenings, to count the Perseids meteorite showers; or returned home

at the end of a long day and gazed up at the stars on a clear frosty night before shutting the door behind us. Viewing the Southern Cross in the heavens above on travels in the southern hemisphere; or on a night passage on a sailing holiday; or even seeing a glittering array of stars near and far, small and faint, large and brilliant, from a bedroom window.

Each time we glimpse a star-filled sky we can feel afresh the enormity of the universe in a way that not even the most expansive daytime, mountaintop view can afford. The night sky transports us from this planet into the farthest reaches of the cosmos, spatially and chronologically, for the light of a star may have taken unimaginable spans of time to reach this tiny speck called Earth. It resets our sense of perspective as the heavens declare the glory of God (Ps 19), since this is as nothing compared with the creator God whose work it is.

This infinite God reveals himself to us and makes his dwelling with us in time and space as well as in the eternity of dark and light. Sometimes we need simply to soak in this spectacle, no matter how limited our understanding of it may be.

**Great is the mystery of faith** ...It's Trinity Sunday, a day when we celebrate God as three in one and one in three.

The Trinity is one of those topics which can leave everybody feeling confused, but we can also use it simply to describe how amazing God is. God is so big, so wonderful and so far beyond our imaginations that to our minds he really doesn't seem to make sense! God is a mystery. So, if somebody comes up to you and says, go on then, you're a Christian explain the Trinity then your response could be simply to say:

"The Trinity is a way of us saying as Christians that God is much bigger and more complicated than we will ever know ... God is a mystery that we humans cannot solve."

In our gospel reading Jesus makes this clear that there is one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that he will never leave us.

It's important to see God as Trinity because:

- It gives us a balanced view, protecting us from an inadequate perspective of God.
- It is biblical, it is seen throughout the New Testament.
- It shows our source and destiny as LOVE.
- It gives us a model for our relationships, and it challenges our fundamental values.

As human beings it meets our basic psychological needs, giving us;

- a point of reference - FATHER
- an inspiring role model - SON
- a helper/facilitator/presence with us - Holy Spirit.

God meets us wherever we are and meets our need of him in such a basic way.

I'm excited to see the continuation of God at work here among us, sometimes where we expect, but often in the unexpected too, in the inspiring conversations, in one of the God moments, where it is clear that the Holy Spirit is among us and reaching out before us. Today, as we celebrate God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, let's give thanks for all that means in our lives as individuals and as a worshipping community, united across the local churches and across the whole world.

*Let us pray:* Holy God, we thank you for all that you are, all that you do among us and for what lies ahead for our future. **Amen.**

### ***The Apostle's Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ***Prayers of Intercession***

As we gather in God's name let us bring to him our prayers which come from love and concern. Lord, we thank you for all the help and encouragement we are given from the Church from its worship, teaching and fellowship, from its faithfulness in prayer. Bless and further all loving ministry in word and sacrament throughout the world Church; inspire us all to want your will and to do it. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for the world, where the misery and tragedy of wrong choices grieves your heart of love. Let there be wisdom and compassion in all negotiations and decisions; let there be humility in leadership and responsibility for right action shared by all.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we bring to you the joys and worries, the frustrations and accomplishments of this week in the lives we have met and shared. As we pray, let your light shine into all these lives for fresh directing and lasting good.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we bring to you those we know who are ill or suffering in any way. Give them healing, restore them in body, mind and spirit, and provide them with your indwelling.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we remember in your presence all those who have died, and particularly those we have known and loved. Thank you for them and their example to us. Thank you for your promise of eternal life and peace. May we comfort one another through your love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we thank you for your offer of life in all its abundance;  
May we accept it with joy every day of our life.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

**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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## ***Final Prayer***

Almighty God, we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship you in this place of prayer: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable to you; 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.**

## ***Final Hymn: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!***

1 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!

2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy  
sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3 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.

4 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.

## ***Blessing***

Christ, whose glory is in the heavens, fill this house and illuminate our hearts; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**