

# Swaythling Parish Sunday 7 June 2020 Trinity Sunday

## Welcome

Below is a service sheet for you to use for this week's Sunday morning service. This is based on a service that is being broadcast as a video on Sunday morning through the YouTube channel. It will be available on YouTube from 10am on Sunday, (and afterwards). Please search for "Swaythling Parish" on YouTube to find and view it. If do not have access to watch the YouTube video, we hope you will be able to use these words and join us too in spirit.

## Introduction from Peter

Good morning and a very warm welcome to everyone joining us today. Whether you would normally join us in person or not we hope you will part of the Swaythling family as we worship together today.

Yes, you are seeing what you think you are, I am sitting on a trampoline to begin today's service (with reference to the video:). That is because today



is trinity Sunday, when we think about God as three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This trampoline is surrounded by a rigid frame. So often the idea of the trinity, God in three persons, can become a rigid frame that binds our theology and thinking, but the rigid frame that surrounds me here is actually a source of play, of fun, of wonder. If we look for the idea of trinity in the bible we find it is much more fluid than we sometimes try and portray or understand; no one had pinned it down back then, and I would suggest

few have managed to explain it adequately or fully since. I think the invitation to reflect on God in three persons is an invitation into playfulness, an invitation into the wonder and mystery of God, an invitation to explore the expansiveness of God. Later on, Bruce will share his thoughts on the trinity, but I invite you to see this whole service as an invitation to wonder at something new about God today.

## Greeting

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is Risen  
**He is Risen indeed. Alleluia**

## A moment to wonder

So let's begin with an invitation to wonder at the mystery of God, to remember and give thanks for the blessings, the good things that we have known in this last week, to recognise the beauty and mystery around us, to value those who love us and those we love, but where we feel alone to give thanks for the far reaching love of God that searches us out.

## Hymn 273: Great is thy faithfulness

I Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided-  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

T O Chisholm (1866-1960): © 1923, 1951 Hope Publishing Co

## The Confession

We began with wonder and thanks, but one of the things that stops us wondering and giving thanks is when we can be hard on ourselves for the things we have got wrong, when we allow guilt or the voices in our heads that seek to condemn us, but one of the wonderful things about God is the expansive forgiving love that goes before us. Whatever mistakes we have made this week, we do not need to be held by them.

For the people we have hurt and those we have failed to love.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the times we have let ourselves and others down.  
Christ have mercy  
**Christ, have mercy**

For the choices we have made and the things we have done that we regret.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love  
Bring us back to himself,

Forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **The 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**

### **Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
Almighty God and Father.  
We worship you, we give you thanks  
We praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Son of the Father  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

Music: © G Philbrick

### **Readings**

#### **Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-31**

*Isaiah writes of the incomparable majesty of God.*

*Read by Christine in the video*

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Matthew 28: 16-20 -**

*Jesus sends the disciples out with a command to draw  
others into the fellowship of this God-in-Trinity, and  
promises to be with them always.*

*Read by Scott in the video*

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## A Reflection on Trinity Sunday from Canon Rev Bruce Hartley

In the last few days I've had a birthday. Nothing leads me to think that my celebration influenced Downing Street to let us all meet small numbers of people, suitably distanced, in open spaces but I was well and truly grateful in any case. Those of us who live alone have been missing particularly our nearest and dearest, even if reassured that they are still there at the end of a phone or on some screen, remembering what we look like (probably with tidier hair) and sparing us a thought – even a prayer!

At the end of March with isolation the order of the day, we faced the age old dread that we might be left, beyond the reach of help and support to perish on our miserable own. Now, with return to work, trains and busses, schools partially open, many of us are honestly wondering how we can cope with the crowds of people soon to press round us, barely two inches let alone two metres away.

This is a widespread predicament at any time but general experience just now has brought it starkly to our attention. Do I count as an individual? Can I flourish and grow as the self I am meant to become? In the end, is it a matter of each person for themselves and devil take the hind most? Are there so many billions of people now populating the earth that I shall sink unseen in the over-crowded swimming pool that represents the human leisure park?

To these deep-seated fears our faith offers the mystery of the Trinity. We have come to see that the God who creates is also to be met in Jesus, saving and restoring, and is to be met too in the out-poured Spirit which or maybe better who infects and inspires those drawn into the divine life. There are not three separate gods at work but One,

inseparably bound by love - a joyful love - that we are offered a share in. You can see why the word 'mystery' is used!

To enjoy a trampoline you don't need to know much about gravity, forces and reactions. You need someone to show you what to do and invite you to join in. Soon you will be shouting in exhilaration as you rise higher and higher and even somersault on your way down. Losing touch with the ground for a while, seems like being out of this world. Few young trampolinists need to know how it works in order perfect their performance. Aren't you going to have a go? God's playground is open to all, any time and anywhere.

Now to give us space to marvel in the mystery of God's love, Debbie will play a song of John Bell's: "*She sits like a bird*" with the words on screen for us to read or to sing.

### Song: *She sits like a bird*

*She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters  
She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters,  
Hovering on the chaos of the world's first day;  
She sighs and she sings, mothering creation,  
Waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.*

*She wings over earth, resting where she wishes,  
Lighting close at hand or soaring through the skies;  
She nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder,  
Nourishing potential hidden to our eyes.*

*She dances in fire, startling her spectators,  
Waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness reigned;  
She weans and inspires all whose hearts are open,  
Nor can she be captured, silenced or restrained.*

*For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence,  
Gifted by the Saviour in eternal love;  
She is the key opening the scriptures,  
Enemy of apathy and heavenly dove.*

G Maule (b. 1958) J Bell (b. 1949) © Wild Goose Publications

### Prayers of Intercession

*Written and read by Peter*

Let us pray. Come with me in your mind to the State of Amazonia in Brazil. An underfunded health system collapsing under the weight of the Covid-19 pandemic. Let's pray for the people there, struggling to get into the hospital for treatment. The expansive God of mercy and love has not forgotten them, but we pray that people may be empowered to make a difference there, that Lord God, Sacred three you will be manifest in the outworking of grace and love in that place.

Trinitarian God,

**may you be known in grace and love.**

Let us go now to the nation of Yemen. Long war torn and now facing war on two fronts a physical war and a war against disease. We pray for those working for peace and bringing hope; sacred three, may you be manifest in the outworking of hope and peace in that place.

Trinitarian God

**may you be known in hope and peace**

Let us imagine ourselves in a cancer ward in the uk. People facing treatment that is life changing and life threatening at the best of times and currently so much more complex. For those who have felt more alone than ever as they face this battle. We pray for those offering care and counselling. Sacred three,

may you be manifest in the outworking of consolation and kindness.

Trinitarian God

**may you be known in consolation and kindness.**

Let us now stand by the grieving family of George Floyd and so many others who feel unheard and voiceless, around the world. Calm the forces of violence, and amplify those calling for reconciliation and justice.

Trinitarian God

**may you be known in reconciliation and justice.**

Reflect with me on the small business owner, whose business has been all but wiped out in a few months. Wonder at the fear, the disappointment at opportunities lost and hopes dashed. For those in positions to help, those tasked with the tough decisions of issuing grants or loans, those in a position to advise. May they be imbued with compassion and sensitivity. Sacred three, may you be manifest in the outworking of compassionate support.

Trinitarian God

**may you be known in compassion.**

Finally join me in the household of someone struggling. The tight budget no longer goes round as it did a few weeks ago, the 20% cut in wages has hit hard, or the drying up of casual employment, for some there has been no one there to hug and cry with, no one there to help. We pray that those seeking to help will find those who need it. Sacred three, may you be manifest in the outworking of wisdom and connection, connecting those in need with those who may be in a position to help.

Trinitarian God

**May you be known in Wisdom.**

We bring you these prayers and all the other concerns, questions and longings in our hearts, knowing that you hear and answer us. Help us to continue to be your body here on earth and especially here in Swaythling.

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

**Hymn 309: Holy is the Lord**

- 1 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord;  
holy is the Lord God almighty.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord;  
holy is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!
- 2 Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord;  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord;  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord!
- 3 Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord;  
worthy is the Lord God almighty.  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord;  
worthy is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come!  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord.
- 4 Glory, glory, glory to the Lord;  
glory to the Lord God almighty.  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord;  
glory to the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord.

Unknown

### **Closing Blessing**

May God,  
who comes to us  
in the things of this world,  
bless your eyes  
and be in your seeing.

May Christ,  
who looks upon you  
with deepest love,  
bless your eyes  
and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit,  
who perceives what is  
and what may yet be,  
bless your eyes  
and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three  
bless your eyes  
and cause you to see.

*In the Sanctuary of Women, © J Richardson.  
<http://paintedprayerbook.com/>*

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

*Thank you for joining in with us. If we can support you in any way, please get in touch. 023 8055 4231  
[peter.dockree@outlook.com](mailto:peter.dockree@outlook.com)*

*The Sunday Service Video will be on YouTube at 10am on Sunday. Please search for "Swaythling Parish" on YouTube to find and view it.*

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