



## Birstall Methodist Church



A Service for Trinity Sunday: May 30th, 2021

This service has been prepared for use at home, as well as in church and online at 10:30am.

### Opening Prayer

The blessing of Father, Spirit, Son -  
Holy Trinity, Three in One,  
be in our meeting  
and our greeting;  
in the worship we share,  
and in our prayer.

***The blessing of Father, Spirit, Son -  
Holy Trinity, Three in One,  
be in our living  
and our breathing;  
that through our hearts and our words  
your truth may be heard.***

### Hymn

StF 11

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,  
who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the sinful human eye 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!

*words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826) (altd)*

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"  
And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

## Prayer

O Holy God,  
like Isaiah the prophet, we stand in awe of your glory,  
feeling tremendously small and polluted by our sin,  
and the sin of our society.  
Even so, you touch us with your burning presence,  
and we are made clean and whole.

O God, our Creator,  
continue to build this household of faith into what you want us to be.

O Christ, our Saviour,  
lead us to do your will.

O Spirit, our Power,  
strengthen us for the work of the Kingdom,  
for worship and a service which is ours today as well as tomorrow.

O Blessed Trinity,  
fill us with your presence.  
For yours is the Power,  
and the Salvation,  
and the Creation,  
now and always.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

StF 20

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord  
the Holy One is here;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear:  
in him no sin is found,  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.
2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight -  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.
3. Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place;  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister His grace.  
No work too hard for him -  
in faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

*words: David J Evans (b.1957)*

## Reading Matthew 28: 1-10, 16-20

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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, baptising 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**

I'm one of those strange people who actually enjoys maths. I find numbers interesting, even fun. I like the patterns and order.

We mark our lives by numbers — anniversaries, birthdays. They matter. They mean something.

And, as you know, numbers are important in the Bible. They mean something. You know the usual suspects:

- the 12 disciples represent the 12 twelve tribes of Israel;
- 7 denotes perfection;
- 40 days is a significant time of challenge and change
- you've probably heard that the 153 fish caught by the disciples represented the whole world.

When a number is mentioned in the Bible, it means something, and it invites imagination and inquiry. So on Trinity Sunday, we should perhaps wonder why the number 3 is used to signify the nature of God.

We happily sing, "*God in Three Persons - blessed Trinity*". Have you ever stopped to wonder why God is described as Three Persons?

Three is not a comfortable number for a relationship - you know what they say; "two's company - three's a crowd".

Even numbers split into pairs, and make conversation easier. It's harder work to share a conversation among three; to pay equal attention to both of the other people, and listen to them both (perhaps at the same time). You have to keep track of two sets of feelings and responses and reactions. It's easy for one to be left out, or overlooked.

When there is a difference of opinion, it can be hard to find a compromise that works for three.

Yet God's nature is expressed as Three-in-One, so maybe God thinks the hard work of keeping all our relationships balanced and equal is important.

What do you think?

**Reflection: *Three is the Magic Number***

Three is the magic number,  
calling us out of individualism,  
insisting on relationship -  
I to you,  
we to another.

Trinity seeding networks  
until all the cosmos joins in:

one to create  
    one to save  
        one to sustain.

one to author  
    one to fight  
        one to enliven.

one to conceive  
    one to die  
        one to resurrect.

one to plan  
    one to act  
        one to explain.

one's sufficient  
    two's company  
        three's community.

Trinity - expose our self-reliance  
Trinity - break open our exclusivity  
Trinity - seed our joining today.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

In the mystery of the beginning of all things, Creator God,  
you made this planet,  
rock upon layer of rock,  
to be weathered and planted,  
and become place for living.

In the mystery of human life, Parent God,  
you made us, flesh and blood, and spirit and bone,  
imagine of yourself; woman, man and child,  
for loving.

In the mystery of your unconditional love, Redeemer God,  
you came in Jesus, flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone,  
to bring us out of captivity,  
back to our true belonging together;  
daughters and sons of heaven,  
living and loving here on earth.

So in this sacred moment, we rest,  
thankful for your gifts and your presence.

And in the quiet  
we bring to mind the broken and wounded parts of our lives, and of our world.  
Help us to name them now,  
and as you have shared our deepest sufferings,  
so may your transforming grace heal our lives, and our world.

*silence*

In your mercy, touch us,  
and turn us to face you and one another.  
Hold us in your grace, we pray.

**Amen**

***Our Father .....***

**Hymn**Tune: *O Waly Waly*; StF 287ii

Go walk with God in all you do,  
and may God's love bring joy to you.  
May gifts of peace fill all your days,  
and may God's truth guide you always.

O may the grace of Christ our Lord,  
the wondrous love that comes from God,  
the Spirit's fellowship now be  
God's gifts to you eternally.

We thank you, Lord, for life to share  
through learning, serving, praise and prayer.  
And when we say good-bye to friends,  
we thank you, Lord: Love never ends.

**Blessing**

May the holy wisdom of God  
guard your ways and guide your paths.  
May the living truth of God  
enlighten your hearts and open your minds,  
and may the living Spirit of God  
give you life, and life to the full!

***Amen!***