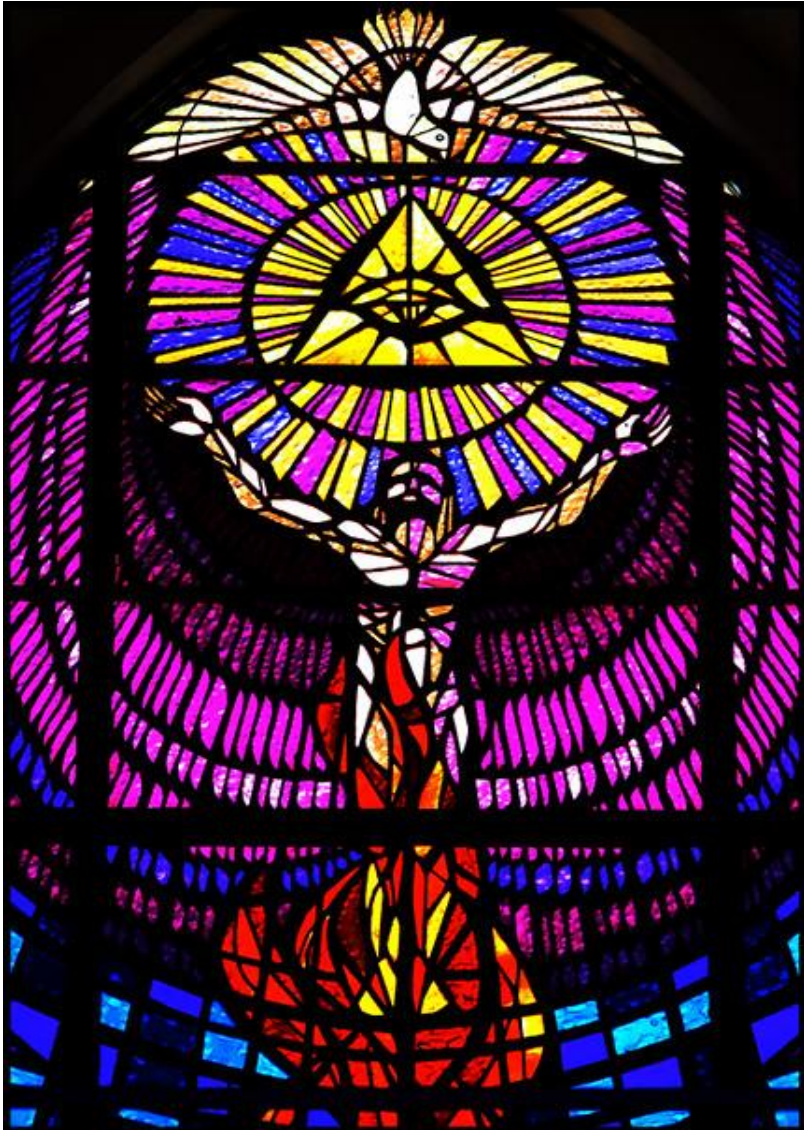




Chet Valley Churches



Morning Worship for Trinity Sunday

7th June 2020

Gathering

Welcome to our time of Worship in the Chet Valley Benefice on Trinity Sunday. Let us worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

♪ Hymn: Lord of Beauty, Thine the Splendour

**Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
Shown in earth and sky and sea,
Burning sun and moonlight tender,
Hill and river, flower and tree:
Lest we fail our praise to render
Touch our eyes that they may see.**

**Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
Mighty waters ebb and flow,
While unhasting, undelaying,
Planets on their courses go:
In thy laws thyself displaying,
Teach our minds thyself to know.**

**Lord of life, alone sustaining
All below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
Sun and stars sublimely move:
In our earthly spirits reigning,
Lift our hearts that we may love.**

**Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
'Till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,
And, with vision purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
Thou in all art glorified.**



Introduction to Confession.

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.

We are sorry and repent.

Have mercy on us according to your love.

Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.

Renew a right spirit within us and restore to us

the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

May the Father forgive you by the death of his Son and strengthen you to live in the power of the Spirit all of your days. **Amen.**

We praise God

Blessed are you, Lord our God: In your love you create all things out of nothing through your eternal word.

We glorify and adore you.

Blessed are you, Lord our God: In your love you redeemed the world through our Lord Jesus Christ.


We glorify and adore you.

Blessed are you, Lord our God: in your love you empower your people through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We glorify and adore you.

To you, loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all glory, honour and praise now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Readings

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

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.

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

 **2 Corinthians 13: 11-13**

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.

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

 **Hymn: *Thou Whose Almighty Word***

**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.**

**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.**

**Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving holy Dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move on the water's face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light.**

**Blessèd and Holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the earth far and wide
Let there be light.**

 *The Gospel Reading: Matthew 28: 16-20*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you O Lord.

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.



Sermon

May I speak in the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Today is Trinity Sunday. On this the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the doctrine of the Trinity: God, who is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Unlike Christmas, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, there is no particular event which describes the Trinity, nor is there a passage of the Bible which explains it! Indeed, understanding what it might mean, took the early church several centuries! We talk about one God, we believe in one God, and we also talk about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—but still only one God.

If you were asked to draw or paint a picture of the Trinity, I wonder how you would begin? I remember when being asked to do this at a church gathering a while back when we thought about how we would draw an image of God. Eventually there were lots of lovely pictures: some had drawn a hand holding the world, some had drawn a design of a crown, a cross and a dove, and some had painted swirls of beautiful colours! I have heard the Trinity of God described as a ‘dance’ of God. ‘Dance’ I think is a good description of a close relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So what does the Trinity mean, and why does it matter? Teaching and talking about God is a big part of Christian life. What sort of God we believe in really does matter! And what matters is, do we believe and trust in God the Father who created the world and God the Son who redeemed the world and God the Holy Spirit who gives us life? We read in John’s Gospel, chapter 14, that Jesus said, “Believe me when I say I am in the Father, and the Father is in me, the Father lives in me, and he is doing his own work”. By knowing Jesus we have hope; this is why we really should encourage others to know him. Jesus also said, “The Helper will teach you everything, this Helper is the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name.

God exists in eternal relationship, a community of love between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amazingly, we are invited to be part of this relationship, to be part of the ‘dance of love’ and to know the vulnerability, and the joy of love. We may find it impossible to draw an

image of the Trinity but if we have eyes to see and ears to hear God is experienced every day. We are called to be confident, in knowing the living God is with us.

In these past few months as the Coronavirus has affected every part of life around the world, many have deeply felt the anguish of vulnerability and fear. So many are seeking real strength, real comfort, real hope, and true peace. Those who are suffering most with little or no protection, the poorest, the oppressed, the persecuted, people living in terror in Eritrea and Syria for example, these people can have strength to carry on and hope too, if they have faith in the love of God the Father, the life which comes through Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

You may have seen a young woman on TV recently, who was kept captive for 2 years in a goods container. Even though she was imprisoned because she is a Christian, she still encouraged other prisoners nearby to sing songs of worship with her! The plight of people murdered and many more badly hurt in the United States this week, shows there is still much racism there. All these people and their families, need strength and hope too.

In our Old Testament reading, the prophet Isaiah says, “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God! He does not faint or grow weary! He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.” These words about God are badly needed in today’s world!

Matthew reminds us too in the Gospel reading, of Jesus’ words, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptise them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to know my ways and remember, you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end!”

As we worship, pray and praise God together in this virtual way, being mainly confined to our homes, and the church buildings are shut during lockdown, God is still at work in and through us at this time. We must never forget what the Trinity of Almighty God has done, is doing and will continue to do among His people. Even though our own future and church life may be unclear, we can open our hearts to receive the guidance of God and rely on His will for us.

We are forever held in the everlasting circle of the communion of love, with the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith.

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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 a power from on high.**

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

♪ Hymn: *Creator God Who Brings Light Out of Darkness*

**Creator God, who brings light out of darkness
And makes a world of land and sea and sky
Where life can flourish and evolve new patterns,
To fill the earth and run and swim and fly.
We need your help if we're to take your challenge
And guide your world with wisdom, as we should
So we in turn can look on our creations
And share with you the joy in seeing they are good.**

**O God incarnate, entering creation,
Jesus the sharer of our blood and bone,
We see the scars of love you bear forever,
A promise that we are not left alone.
We need your help if we're to share your mission
To bring your light wherever darkness reigns,
To walk beside those lost upon life's margins
And show to them the path that endless life attains.**

**Spirit divine, who flows throughout creation,
Holding in being all things from their birth;
Speaking within us, offering the promise
That harmony can rule across the earth.
We need your help in living out our vision
If we're to build communities of care,
Places of peace and love where all are welcome
That realise in deed God's image that we share.**

Prayers

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

Prayers of intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Gracious God, fountain of all wisdom,
we pray for all Christian people;
for Bishops Graham, Alan and Jonathan,
for all Christian leaders,
and for those who teach and guard the faith...

May the word of Christ dwell richly in our hearts,
and knit us together in the bond of your love.

Lord hear us

Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for the leaders of the nations,
and for those in authority under them...

Give them the gift of your wisdom,
and a right discernment in all things.

Lord hear us

Hear us, good Lord.



We pray for our communities in the Chet Valley Benefice,
for those who live and work here,
and for those who visit this place...

Speak your word of peace in our midst,
and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us.

Lord hear us.

Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for those who do not believe,
and yet who long to know you, the very Word of life ...

Open their ears to hear your voice,
and open their hearts to the knowledge
of your love in Christ.

Lord hear us.

Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for those bowed down with grief,
fear or sickness,
especially those suffering or grieving as a result of the Coronavirus...

May your living Word bring comfort and healing
to all those in need.

Lord hear us.

Hear us, good Lord.

We give thanks for all those who have died in the
faith of Christ
and we rejoice with all your saints,
trusting in the promise of your word fulfilled.

Lord of life,

**hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever.
Amen.**

The Collect

Holy God, faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with a 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.

♪ **Final Hymn: Go Forth and Tell, O Church of God Awake**

**Go forth and tell!
O church of God, awake!
God's saving news
To all the nations take;
Proclaim Christ Jesus,
Saviour, Lord, and king,
That all the world
His worthy praise may sing.**

**Go forth and tell!
God's love embraces all;
He will in grace
Respond to all who call:
How shall they call
If they have never heard
The gracious invitation
Of his word?**

**Go forth and tell!
O church of God, arise!
Go in the strength
Which Christ your Lord supplies;
Go 'till all nations
His great name adore
And serve him,
Lord and King for evermore.**



Blessing

The Almighty and merciful Lord,
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
bless you and keep you.

Amen.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.**

