

**ST CUTHBERT'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLINTON**

**Trinity Sunday
26 & 30 May 2021
10.30am**



**COVID-19
Services in Church and
online on our YouTube Channel**

Welcome to this service, where we are pleased to be able to gather together to worship God. We are only allowed to do this because precautions have been put into place to protect each other as sisters and brothers in Christ during the pandemic. Please follow the guidelines given on the order of service and verbally by the worship leader or welcomers.

Face coverings must be worn throughout the service.

Please stand as the clergy enters.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Please sit

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

HYMN 310 – Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty

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!

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 shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Through the darkness hide thee,

though the sinful mortal eye

thy glory may not see,

only thou art holy,

there is none beside thee,

perfect in power, in love, and purity.

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!

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

©Copyright 2008 Kevin Mayhew Ltd, Anglican Hymns Old & New

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is love and we are God's children.

There is no room for fear in love.

We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.**

We are truly sorry.

**Forgive us our sins,
and deliver us from the power of evil.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please stand

GLORIA (*Said*)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Father, we praise you: through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love. Fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

First 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!'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8.12-17

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

GRADUAL HYMN 767 – 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 in to the inly blind,
O now to humankind
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.

Holy and blessed 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.

John Marriott (1780-1825) alt.

©Copyright 2008 Kevin Mayhew Ltd, Anglican Hymns Old & New

Please stand

Gospel: John 3.1-17

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
John. **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

SERMON

Please sit

Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday, popularized by St. Thomas Becket. On the day of his consecration as Archbishop of Canterbury, his first act was to ordain that the Sunday after Pentecost (the anniversary of his consecration) should be a new festival in honour of the Holy Trinity.

A Sunday when preachers like me wish I had somebody else preaching, as I certainly cannot explain the Holy Trinity to you; I just know it is something that I believe. As in the Creed we will recite, we believe in One God and then go on to talk about Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. George Bernard Shaw apparently used to mutter, “the whole thing is incomprehensible.” Even the finest theologians find themselves at a loss to explain it satisfactorily.

Some use the analogy of the masks worn by actors in the old Greek tragedies. One actor wearing many masks can play many parts. But it is still just one actor. Others have used the analogy of water. Under normal conditions, water, H₂O,

is a liquid, but freeze it and it becomes a solid. Heat it and it becomes steam. It is still H₂O, whatever form it takes, but it can have three radically different forms. Still others have used the analogy of roles and relationships. A woman can be at the same time a mother, a wife, a rector, etc. One woman, but many roles.

Those are not perfect analogies; in fact they are modalism. Heresies that state that God is one person but reveals himself in three forms or modes - but they are the best we can do with the minds God has given us.

One of the most prominent Christians who ever lived was a man we know as St. Augustine. He was converted to Christianity in A.D. 386 and ten years later became a bishop and served at Hippo on the coast of Northern Africa.

It is said that one day Augustine was walking along the seashore pondering how God could be One and yet Three. Suddenly he stopped and watched a child who was carrying a cup of ocean water to a small hole he had dug in the sand. "What are you doing?" asked Augustine. The child replied, "I'm trying to pour the ocean into this hole." The bishop laughed and said, "That's impossible." The child stared into his eyes and said, "It is no more impossible than for you to put Almighty God into your small mind."

That's not a bad place to start. The lesson today from Isaiah tells the tale of the prophet having a vision, in which he sees God and shouts, "Woe is me! Isaiah is lost, has unclean lips

and yet, has seen the King, the Lord of Hosts. In the face of the majesty of God, Isaiah recoils in fear, conscious of his unworthiness.

Perhaps we have lost that feeling of total inadequacy in the face of God? We tend rather to recoil from mystery itself. Yet God showed himself not to frighten Isaiah, but to love him and to send him out to tell others about God. God's purpose was to adopt Isaiah and to fill Isaiah with strength and purpose.

In the Gospel today, Nicodemus, a leader in Israel, is curious. He has come to think that Jesus is particularly close to God in a unique way. He's never met anyone quite like Jesus. Jesus tells Nicodemus that if he wants to know what God is doing, he has to start from scratch, "be born anew." Nicodemus finds that statement incredible. Here is a mystery and a seeming impossibility.

Jesus then says some words that are familiar. The New Testament scholar N.T. Wright translates Jesus' familiar words in this way:

"So, just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so in the same way the son of man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may share in the life of God's new age. This you see, is how much God loved the world; enough to give his only, special son, so that everyone who believes in him should not be lost but should share in the life of God's new age. After all, God didn't send the son into

the world to condemn the world, but that the world could be saved by him.”

So, what has that to do with our vision of God the Three in One? The three “Persons” who are God are not drawn apart by their perfect individuality, but united into one, through love. Jesus, in being lifted up, in dying, demonstrates what self-sacrificial love looks like. Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness and the story goes, all who touched the serpent were made whole. So we are invited to touch Jesus and to be made whole, and as whole people to be drawn into God’s incredible selfless love.

Why? Isaiah, through his vision of God’s majesty was touched, made whole, and hears God’s call to serve the God who loves the world. Each of us, in baptism, has been called to reflect God’s glory, declare his new life, in fellowship and mission to share it. Through baptism we are commissioned so that we may witness to God’s love and share it in the world. We too have been called to give our lives, imperfect as we are, and in that act of sheer love and obedience, been made worthy to be God’s children, his presence, as the Church in a divided world.

Like Isaiah, as unworthy as we are, we have been commissioned to show what real love is all about, as we are filled with the presence of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit’s forgiving, restoring, compelling love.

In my humble opinion, I don't think we need to be able to explain the doctrine of the Trinity, we just need to share God's love. Amen.

(we pause to listen to a short piece of music for personal reflection)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and Son, he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Please sit or kneel

INTERCESSIONS

The response is:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Living God your presence is here at the heart of each one of us; ... in the stillness we feel your breath upon us guiding us to the water of life where our thirst can be quenched with your kindness and love ... We thank you for your invitation to celebrate here at your table ... awaken in us a passion for equality and generosity ... that no one is excluded from what is only yours to give.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Gracious God who walked, talked, ate, and wept with us fill us with courage to speak out in your name and not to condone injustice in silence ... We ask for your wisdom in the world, to transform the lust for power into a desire for peace, and we become your body, loving, forgiving made whole. We pray for all who meet in honour of you ... that no dogma or fear will blind us to your will and vision for us in our ministry to one another. We pray for John our bishop, for Nicki, Margaret, and Caroline as they support and guide

us as we celebrate the mystery and joy at the heart of your creation.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Compassionate God, we hold in our hearts men, women, and children whose lives are ravaged by war, neglect, loss of liberty and injustice Help us to meet the challenges of love and acceptance for one another; as Jesus did, and knowing when to speak out and to act with courage in your name.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Tender God, fill our lives, and the lives of all who suffer in body or spirit, with your peace and your strength. We ask that you bring solace in times of anxiety and fear... and for your sustaining presence to comfort those who are wearied by pain or disquiet of mind ... hold in your eternal care the souls of those who have died and for those who grieve, full lovingly you hold us when we feel us when it seems we are forsaken.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Bless us with the gift of your Holy Spirit, our being, and our breath, as gentle as a whisper and as powerful as fire.

Accept these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Margaret Temple

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

OFFERTORY HYMN 320 – How shall I sing that majesty

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

Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heav'n is but once begun
there alleluias be.

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)

©Copyright 2008 Kevin Mayhew Ltd, Anglican Hymns Old & New

Please stand

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Father, in every place and
at all times. All power is yours. You created the heavens
and established the earth; you sustain in being all that is.

In Christ your Son our life and yours are brought together in
a wonderful exchange. He made his home among us
that we might for ever dwell in you.

Through your Holy Spirit you call us to new birth
in a creation restored by love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, who worship the
mystery of your Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we
offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the
whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your
unending glory:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please sit

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father,
for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. He is the Word
existing beyond time, both source and final purpose,
bringing to wholeness all that is made. Obedient to your will
he died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from
the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people
free to be his Body in the world.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.

**We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.**

**Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with
them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, Saint Cuthbert and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

**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, for ever
and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
All are welcome to receive.

Music for the sharing of Communion.

Please remain in your seat to receive Communion in one form only. The worship leader will bring it to you. Keep your face covering on until the person bringing the wafer has moved away and then you can lift it to eat the wafer.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Give thanks to our gracious God
Whose mercy endures for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, may we who have received this eucharist worship you in all we do, and proclaim the majesty of your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

~

27 & 30 May 2021

Foodbank:

If you would like to support the June foodbank collection, cash can be given to Patricia in Colinton or me in Currie. I will then transfer it to the foodbank account. Thank you, Susan Clark.



St Cuthbert's Garden:

A beautiful, peaceful area to reconnect with nature, a haven, somewhere to chat with friends, a lovely setting for wedding photographs, all very apt and valid descriptions of our church gardens. However, keeping the lawns manicured, the verges weed free and the hedges and trees trimmed is no mean feat. So, the Gardening Team meet at 10 am on the second and fourth Mondays of each month during the summer. Please think about joining this friendly, but slightly aging group, you would be made most welcome. No experience is necessary, except perhaps being able to identify a weed, just turn up, with your favourite trowel and, more importantly, a drink and a snack, as we are allowed a wee break for a natter.

Bryan, Ross, Nick, Mary, Vivien and Margaret

YouTube:

Join the full service each week online, (recording of the Wednesday service) using this link to our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3iPQOkQiVERjeHZbj2OnBQ>

Services in Church:

As numbers at each service are limited, booking is required to attend. Bookings can be made: Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday 10am – 1pm by email: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com or by telephone: 07305 911986 (if no answer, please leave a message). You will receive an email or telephone call a few days prior to the service to confirm your place. If you are not booked in, you will be unable to attend.
Thank you.

Weekly Prayer:

Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we may not fully comprehend the concept of the Trinity, but we know all three represent love, mercy and justice. May we, despite our limitations in understanding, do our best to reflect these qualities in our daily lives. Help us in our quest to be and do good. Amen.