

+ Crowe Hill + Fordingbridge + Horton Heath + Ringwood +

Sunday Service 30th May 2021

Welcome to this Sunday's Service

Today's Lectionary Texts:

Isaiah 6:1–8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12–17 John 3:1–17

Theme: Trinity Sunday

Mike will be using this material for family-friendly morning worship with communion at Crowe Hill Methodist Church this morning.

Keeping in Touch

GENERAL

The churches under the leadership of Revd Mike Shrubsole have opened for worship. Please refer to details under each church. Mike will continue to produce email or paper copies of the weekly worship on a weekly basis for the foreseeable future.

As churches we are conscious that now Covid restrictions are relaxing even more, people are beginning to make a decision if it is the right time for them to begin attending worship. For many their absence has been for well over a year. Please know that in all the churches people remain socially distanced and the need to wear masks continues and as yet no congregational singing is permitted. Should you have any queries or need reassurance please do not hesitate to talk to Mike or a member of your church's leadership team.

GENERAL PRAYER

With half term approaching we pray for those in our fellowships who work in schools. May they have a good break to renew their energy levels for the final half term before summer: Emma, Andrew, Cathryn, Eric, Katherine, Hannah, Judy, Chris and Kerry.

We remember in prayer those within our fellowships who have played an important role within our fellowships but due to frailty or mobility are unable to attend. We give thanks for their faithfulness and continued interest in the life of the church. As they pray for us, we pray for them.

TRINITY RINGWOOD

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10.45am every Sunday

Sunday 30th May worship for Trinity Sunday led by Revd David Langford.

Sunday 6th May worship led by Mrs Tricia Knapp

Drink-Chat-Pray each Thursday at 10.30 am. Zoom details will be circulated. If you would like something to be prayed for but are unable to attend please do not hesitate to contact Louise. Each week we take time to gradually pray through the church directory.

TRINITY AND WESLEY CENTRES Both centres, Wesley and Trinity are open now for bookings and groups are taking place. Alan is pleased to meet previous hirers and to make contact with new ones.

Please continue to pray for the logistics involved with opening up the children's activities. Little Lambs has had two very successful sessions and continues on a weekly basis. Families are invited to come every other week so more families can be accommodated. Families were very grateful for the opportunity and complimentary for the safe play space offered. Thanks must go to Jackie for her thoughtfulness and energy in pulling it together. Please pray for Jackie and the team as plans are being finalized for starting both Eco Club and Lego Club.

TRINITY PRAYER FOCUS - David D who is attending hospital appointments for a very painful neck; Rosie T who for some time has had continued high level pain and is awaiting a new hip operation at beginning of June; Joyce H in Lymington hospital getting treatment to control acute lower back pain; Andi C having had major surgery to complete surgery on bowel removal, also surgery to temporarily repair a hernia. She will need to be immobile for quite sometime to allow healing to take place. We think of the family: Volkan, Becky and Phil and the 3 very active children.

CROWE HILL

SUNDAY WORSHIP on a weekly basis, alternating 10.30am and 3.00pm

Sunday 30th May 10.30am All Age Communion led by Revd Mike Shrubsole

Sunday 6th May 10.30am Worship for all ages led by Barrie Knight

The Church will open for PRIVATE PRAYER each Wednesday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. You will be made most welcome.

Bible Study group continues by zoom every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm. Details will be sent out by Brian Skelley.

PRAYER FOCUS - We think of Naomi and Gustav as they wait the imminent arrival of their baby. Alfie and Isaac are excited too.

HORTON HEATH

SUNDAY WORSHIP on a weekly basis at 10.45am.

Sunday 30th May Sunday School Anniversary

Sunday 6th June preacher by local arrangement

WORDSHOP will meet by Zoom at 7.30pm on Monday 14th June and look at the Sunday's gospel reading.

PRAYER FOCUS - We think of Becky and Tim who will be moving away from the area soon. Pray for them and their families. We give thanks for the important and valued roles they have played in the fellowship and trust that they will settle easily and find new Christian fellowship

FORDINGBRIDGE

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10.30am on a twice monthly basis (1st and 3rd Sundays).

Sunday 6th June worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Shrubsole. The Communion Charity will contribute to the Church Gift Day

Sunday 20th June worship led by Andrew Hirst from Immanuel Church, Southbourne.

TEASTOP Support Group – each Thursday afternoon from 2.00 – 4.00pm. You will be made most welcome.

PRAYER FOCUS - We continue to pray for Eileen and David W. Eileen is still in hospital but we pray for the family: David, Cathryn and Eric (Crowe Hill Methodist Church) as suitable discharge arrangements are made.

Call to Worship

In the praise of the Creator,
In the presence of the Saviour,
In the power of the Spirit,
We come.

Song: 'Come let us sing to the One' (STF 2, SOF 4/1740)

A three-verse Trinitarian song to start our worship.

<https://youtu.be/UNp5zEmBSos>

1. Come, let us sing to the One,
to the Father of life,
whose light fills the earth like the sun;
come, tell of the wonders he's done.
Great is the world he has made,
are the mysteries untold,
is his measureless power of old;
come, come let us sing to our God.

Chorus
To our God, who is able
to strengthen us in his grace
beyond all we imagine,
be all glory and praise,
be all praise.

2. Come, let us sing to the One,
to the Saviour of life,

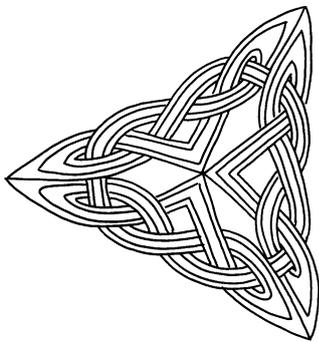
find the fullness of God in the Son;
come, tell of the wonders he's done.
Wild is the mercy of Christ,
is the richness of grace,
is the unending life we embrace;
come, come let us sing to our God.

3. Come, let us sing to the One,
to the Spirit of life,

leading us in the way of the Son;
come, tell of the wonders he's done.
Strong is the Spirit within,
is the boldness to speak,
is the power to run when we're weak;
come, come let us sing to our God.

Words: Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Kristyn
Getty (b. 1980)
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Talk One: 'The Trinity in Celtic Knotwork'



Our ancient Celtic Christian church developed when Christian missionaries brought the gospel to the Celtic peoples of the west of the British Isles. There the first missionaries found people who loved geometric art, and who loved the pattern of three in their poetry. The new and growing church embraced and developed these two things, taking them into new and wonderful directions. The sophisticated knotwork illumination of the Lindisfarne Gospels and the Book of Kells both represent a high point of the development and use of geometric art to the glory of God. But small and subtle creations were also made, such as this 'triquetra' triangle, a shape made up of one continuous line (to represent the oneness of God) running in and out of three corners (to represent the Trinity) and the line itself has three strands to it. (You could colour it in.)

The ancient 'Breastplate' prayer of St. Patrick, and many other 'triad' prayers and blessings united a love of three-fold repetition with a passion to celebrate and seek the presence of the Trinity in the lives of those who used these prayers and blessings on a daily basis. Many ancient examples have been preserved for us down the centuries, and new examples are still being written today. Here is a modern version:

In the love of the Father,
In the light of Christ,
In the leading of the Spirit,
We place ourselves today. Amen.

Prayer

The Father is in this place,
Nothing need we fear.
Christ is in this place,
Loving us so dear.
The Spirit is in this place,

Listening to our prayer.
The Three are in this place,
Always very near. (David Adam)

Prayer for Understanding

As I read, I open myself to: the Voice of God, the Word of God, and the Wisdom of God. I open myself today. Amen.

Bible Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 (ESV)

6 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. **5** And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

Song: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!’ (STF 11, SOF 1/183, R+S 34)

It is probably a happy coincidence that the triple poetic use of the word ‘Holy’ happens to remind us of our Trinitarian God, but happy coincidences ought to be celebrated. Here is Audrey Assad with a beautiful version of this traditional hymn.

<https://youtu.be/AgHrNNM23p8>

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, though the darkness hide Thee,

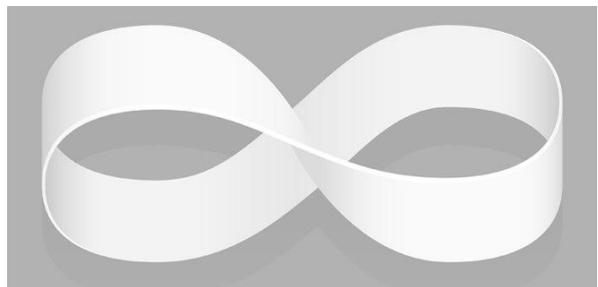
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

3. 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)

Talk Two: 'The Trinity explained using a Mobius Strip'

Have you ever made and cut Mobius Strips? I imagine that it is something every child does. But did you realise that there is more than one way to make a Mobius Strip, and more than one way to cut a Mobius Strip? There is a whole field of topographical mathematics which seeks to explain what is going on when we experiment with different kinds of Mobius Strips. You might like to follow my instructions and have a go at home.



Firstly, (and this is the boring bit to set the scene) – cut a long strip of paper and tape the ends together to make a plain loop. The loop represents eternal God, without beginning or end. Now, with a pair of scissors cut along the length of the loop, one third in from the edge. You will simply cut off one thin loop. Now cut the remaining loop in half along its length to create two more loops. You end up with three identical thin loops. People who object to a belief in the Trinity (Jews, Moslems, Unitarians etc.) would say that believing in the Trinity is just like cutting a loop of paper into three like this. You start off with one loop and you end up with three loops. The belief in One God is turned into a belief in three separate lesser Gods. If this was what the Trinity really meant we could understand why people were offended.

But instead of this, secondly (and here is the clever bit) – cut another long strip of paper, and this time put a full 360° twist into it before you tape the ends together. Now with a pair of scissors cut one third of the way in, along the length of the loop just like before. And then cut again in a similar way to split the loop into equal thirds. This time the three loops you will create are all equally interlinked! Believing in the Trinity does not split God into three, but it makes our understanding of God more like an inseparable community. Just because we say that we understand that there are three persons in the Godhead does not take away the inseparable unity of God.

And here is another series of 'explanations'! A humorous cartoon for broad-minded adults showing the theological problem of using analogies to explain the Trinity:

<https://youtu.be/KQLfgaUoQCw>

Prayers for our World

One particular form of Celtic prayer is the 'circling' or 'caim' prayer. In the prayer we ask for God's presence to encircle us and those we are concerned for, and to keep God's goodness in and the evil out.

God our Father

Embrace your children with your love

Hold and sustain your wonderful, but broken, creation

In your arms of love.

We think of our fragile and hurting world ...

Jesus our Brother

Walk beside us in our times our trouble

Through your saving mercy

Encircle us and set us free from all that holds us back.

We think of ourselves, and everyone who is trapped in sin and despair ...

Holy Spirit

You come to comfort and guide us.

Surround us with your power

Equip us to walk in the Way of the Kingdom of God.

We think of the Church, and the kingdoms of this world, wherever a fresh sense of direction is required ...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in the heavens,

May your name be honoured,

May your kingdom come,

May your will be done,

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our bread for the coming day.

Forgive us our debts,

as we have forgiven our debtors.

Save us from the time of trial

and save us from evil.

For the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen

Talk Three: 'Trinity as a dance'

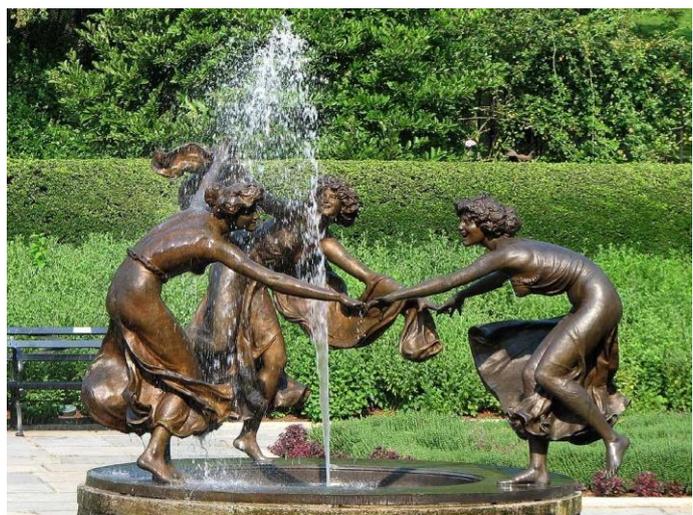
I have always liked traditional folk dances. When we were at university we went to a very lively dance led by a Breton-influenced band called 'Five-Hand Reel' and they taught us the steps of a three-hand reel, a dance for three people. In the dance two people spin round and round whilst the third person looks on and claps and encourages, and at the right moment the third person dives into the dance and replaces one of the others who then takes a turn clapping and encouraging. Every time the fresh, third person dives into the dance the energy level of the spinning dance goes up a notch. It was fast and furious.

It has often been said that the Trinity is like a three-person dance. There is even a word for it: 'perichoresis', which literally means: 'dancing around', but it has come to have a more specific, Christian, and Trinitarian meaning of: 'interpenetration' as the three dancers weave in and out of each other in the steps of the dance. To think of the Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit as dancers is to capture a sense of: joy, energy, relationship, creativity, love and fun at the heart of the Trinity.

I have two pictures to share with you of three people dancing. The first one is by the Northern Irish artist John Luke (1906-1975). It is simply called the 'Three Dancers'. It is elegant, dignified and ethereal; but it seems to be set on a windy day; there is energy at work in the scene; perhaps these perfectly poised dancers are 'brewing up a storm' around themselves.



My second picture is a photograph of a sculpture in Central Park in New York. It is called: 'Three Dancing Maidens', by Walter Schott, cast in 1909. Apart from the obvious beauty and artistic flair of the piece; the thing I particularly like is the cheeky expressions on the faces of the maidens; these girls are going to get wet, and they know it!



The idea of the Trinity as a dance encourages us to think about the joy of God. And the invitation to us all is to come and join the dance, come and enter God's fun.

Song: 'Teach me to dance'

<https://youtu.be/FSaGYTecjFU>

Chorus

*Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart,
Teach me to move in the power of Your Spirit,
Teach me to walk in the light of Your presence,
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.
Teach me to love with Your heart of compassion,
Teach me to trust in the word of Your promise,
Teach me to hope in the day of Your coming,
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.*

1. You wrote the rhythm of life,
Created heaven and earth;
In You is joy without measure.
So, like a child in Your sight,
I dance to see Your delight,
For I was made for Your pleasure,
Pleasure.

2. Let all my movements express
A heart that loves to say 'yes',
A will that leaps to obey You.
Let all my energy blaze
To see the joy in Your face;
Let my whole being praise You,
Praise You.

Words: Graham Kendrick & Steve Thompson
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Communion

We follow a simple family-friendly communion liturgy.

Hear again the words of institution of this feast as they are given by the Apostle Paul:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-6

Let us pray:

We give thanks to you, O God,
that from the earth you cause the grain to come for the making of bread

and that you cause the vine to yield fruit.
We praise you for Christ,
the bread of life and true vine,
whose body was given for us
and whose blood was poured out for us.
By your Holy Spirit sanctify us
and these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread which we break
may be the communion of the body of Christ,
and the cup which we bless
may be the communion of the blood of Christ.
As we share the sufferings of Christ,
so give us grace to know the power of his resurrection,
that we may be made one and evermore abide in him,
to your praise and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Offerings

As you have been fed at this table, go to feed the hungry
As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.
As you have received, give.
As you have heard, proclaim.
And the blessing which you have received from Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be always with you.

Words: Kate McIlhagga, from 'The Pattern of our Days'

Song: 'Sent by the Lord am I' (STF 239)

A lockdown virtual choir to send us on our way. "Here I am, send me!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRGy2XNJDnQ>

1. Sent by the Lord am I;
my hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

Sent by the Lord am I;
my hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

2. The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.

The task is mine to do,
to set it really free.
Oh, help me to obey;
help me to do your will.

Words: Jose Aguiar

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Dismissal and Blessing

The love of the faithful Creator
The peace of the wounded Healer
The joy of the challenging Spirit
The hope of the Three in One
surround and encourage you today, tonight and forever.

Words: Kate McIlhagga, from 'The Pattern of our Days'

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Crowe Hill CCL number: 294114

Fordingbridge URC CCL number: 666591

Horton Heath CCL number: 517396

Trinity United Church CCL number: 33526

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