

Sunday 15th June 2025: Trinity Sunday

For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or some other suitable time.

Theme for today is “When the Spirit of truth comes”

Opening words:

Jesus said “All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you (John 16:15)

Hymn: StF 11 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty

OPENING PRAYERS

Father God, you have created all things and through Christ revealed your salvation in all the world. Give us a vision of your glory and by your Holy Spirit fill us with life and love that we may praise and serve you through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Readings: Psalm 8, Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31 Romans 5: 1-5, John 16: 12-15

Hymn: StF 372 Come down O love divine

MESSAGE

Trinity Sunday came about in the 12th century when instigated by Archbishop Thomas Beckett, later murdered in his church. He based it on the 3rd century effort by the Christian hierarchy to explain the link between God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. So, there’s no direct reference to the Trinity in the Bible, only “suggestions.”

One example of this is the reading set for today, John 16. 12-15. Much of this part of John’s gospel is about Jesus telling his disciples that he will not be with them much longer, and giving them encouragement and information about the situation in which they’ll find themselves. He’s getting them ready for when the leadership role passes from him to them.

Verse 12 tells us a lot, in its two differing sentences.

‘I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you’.

To paraphrase the first question, Jesus is saying that he knows that what he’s telling them is difficult to grasp, so it’s too much to take in, suggesting that he is going to explain to them bit by bit, or ‘step by step’. I sympathise. I’ve never been good at understanding things when first told them. I need to hear things more than once, and preferably see it written down, before I fully understand. To expect the disciples to grasp what Jesus is telling them is almost too much.

This reminds me of the way that a car sat-nav works. You are going on a long journey, and relying on instructions from the sat-nav, but it only gives you directions step by step, road by road, junction by junction. Unless you’ve studied a road map beforehand, showing the whole route, you could easily wonder where you are going to end up.

So, it’s the second sentence that is needed to help the disciples work out what is happening. ‘when the spirit of truth comes (i.e. the Holy Spirit), he will guide you’. Again, to paraphrase the verse, Jesus is saying, don’t worry about all this, you will get all the support and guidance you need from the Spirit. And you only have to read the events in Acts to see how this worked.

How is this relevant for us today? Life often feels confusing, and we don’t always know where we are going or where we are being led. We need to remember that Jesus promised that we would never be without help. So, when unsure of where to go, the Holy Spirit is there to guide us. It gives us the ability to know what is right, to act kindly and courageously and to show the love that God shows us.

So, when we pray or are sitting quietly, when we feel a movement in our heart or a thought comes to us, that could be the Holy Spirit nudging us to do something – step by step, perhaps but leading to something really worthwhile.

This week’s message is brought to us by John Hull one of our Local Preachers

Hymn: StF 398 There’s a Spirit in the air

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Father God, your purpose is for all, for you are the Lord of heaven and earth, the Creator of humankind, Ruler over history. You are always at work, always involved in our lives, calling, guiding, speaking, and responding, everyone being important to you, no matter who they are, each having a place in your purpose. So then, we pray for all in our



world who feel they are drifting, all who search for meaning to their lives, a sense of direction, a goal to strive for. May they find in Jesus Christ the way, the truth and the life.

In faith we lift them before you: **hear our prayer.**

Son of God, your love is for all, for you lived and died for others, reaching out to both rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, righteous and unrighteous, nobody being outside your care, no one beyond your grace. You gave you're all, enduring death on a cross, so that everyone willing to receive you may share in the joy of your kingdom. So we pray for all in our world today who long for love, those who yearn for a meaningful relationship, all those whose once precious relationships have ended in tears, those who have been abandoned or orphaned as children, and those who cannot have children of their own; those cut off from family and friends, and those who face trauma of bereavement. May they discover in you a love that will never let them go.

In faith we lift them before you: **hear our prayer.**

Spirit of God, your peace is for all, for you are at work in every heart, seen or unseen, recognised or unrecognised, striving to break down barriers that keep us from one another, from ourselves and from you. We pray, then, for all in our world who hunger for peace, all who are tormented by fear, torn by doubt, troubled by anxieties, or tortured by guilt; families separated by feuds, communities racked by division, and nations ravaged by war. May they find, through you, peace in body, mind and spirit. In faith we lift them before you: hear our prayer. Almighty God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, we bring you our world, thankful that it is also your world, precious to you and shaped ultimately by your will. Remake, redeem, renew it through your sovereign power. May all people everywhere come to know your purpose, experience your love, and receive your peace, and may each rejoice in the new life you so yearn to give them.

In faith we lift them before you: **hear our prayer. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: StF 378 Father of everlasting grace

Blessing

The Spirit of truth lead us into all truth, give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the word and works of God; and the blessing of God, Spirit, Son and Father remain with us always. Amen.