

## THE BRIDE VALLEY CHURCHES: A Service for Trinity Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The service for today has been prepared by Liz Howlett with prayers written by James Webster. The service is also available to listen to on **01308 293062**.

Please do join us for coffee (bring your own) and an online chat on Sundays at 10am. See the notice sheet for this week's Zoom invitation and link.

### WELCOME EVERYONE

**VERSES FROM PSALM 8:** as arranged by Colin Hodgetts for use in the Othona Community's chapels.\*

Creator, praise shall rise from all you've birthed,  
and earth, rejoicing, join its voice with heaven's.  
The wisdom of the child, the baby's cries  
rebuke the mighty, teaching them hard lessons.

When I survey the skies and search their depths,  
where circling stars and moon each dance their part,  
I wonder that you keep me in your mind,  
and hold this child of Adam in your heart.

You made me one with ev'ry form of life,  
and gave me grace and wisdom beyond measure.  
You made me steward over all your works  
and to my care entrusted ev'ry creature.

All sheep and cattle, wild and fearsome beasts,  
fine feathered birds, and fish from sprat to skate,  
with seals and whales and monsters of the deep.  
Creator, through the earth, your name is great.

**COLLECT:** Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the 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

### **BIBLE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 13: 11 - 13**

**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. **12** Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. **13** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

### **BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 28: 16 – 20**

**28** Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** 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, **20** 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:

**Today, Trinity Sunday, is a day for celebrating God!** To join with the psalmist who sees that the whole of creation is giving praise to God, just by 'being'. There is so much 'creation' out there at the moment! I have never grown anything to eat before but during lockdown I have helped plant some sugar snap peas in our community garden at Othona, and I am marvelling how swiftly they are growing now. I've also taken on early morning watering duties and I am valuing so much being in the garden at the start of the day, with the slight cool in the air and the sun shining (have we ever had such a spring?). I find these words of e e cummings on my lips regularly:

I thank You God for most this amazing  
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

The psalmist also reminds us of the responsibility as stewards that we humans have towards creation: it is heartening to read in the news, therefore, that more than 200 business leaders are calling for a green Covid-19 recovery plan, encouraging the government to focus on its commitment to tackle climate change as it seeks to rebuild the economy. This could be a real opportunity to change direction.

**Today is a day for celebrating God!** In the closing paragraph of Matthew's gospel, we are told that when the eleven disciples saw the risen Jesus on the mountain, 'they worshiped him; but some doubted'. (In the original language there is an even stronger sense that all of them had some doubt, even as they worshiped.) I find this an extraordinarily hopeful picture, that even at this point, the climax of the gospel story, after all they had been through with Jesus, that in the midst of worship, there is space for doubt, for questions, for uncertainty. A tyrant would not tolerate doubt amongst their followers – unthinking, unquestioning belief would be demanded. Our God, on the other hand, invites us to draw near, whatever doubts, whatever struggles we carry. We are invited, in our full, vulnerable, questioning humanity, into the living presence of God.

**Today is a day for celebrating God!** St Paul wrote his second letter to the small Christian communities in Corinth in about 55/56 AD, not much more than 20 years after the death and resurrection of Christ and it is thrilling to see him use 'The Grace', a very familiar prayer within our own church lives, to conclude his letter. Were they using it even then as a way of committing one another into God's good keeping as they drew their gatherings to a close?

Saying the words of the grace is also another way of celebrating God in all God's abundance towards us. Celebrating the grace, in other words, the gifts, freely given by Christ to us, including forgiveness and new life. Celebrating the love of God, outpouring and never running out - I think of the wonderful font in Salisbury Cathedral, full to the brim with water and overflowing at each corner - what a joyful, generous image of God's love - plenty for all and never running out; and celebrating the communion or fellowship of the Holy Spirit – as there is communion/ fellowship or community within and between the persons of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so also the Holy Spirit brings us together in one body, the body of Christ.

**This is a God worth celebrating!**

## **PRAYERS:**

High and Holy God. Lord Almighty. Maker of all there is.

You chose us through Christ to be your people, to be the temple of your Holy Spirit.

We pray that you will fill us with vision and hope that in these challenging times and for ever, our lives may be a beacon to your love and life in all its goodness.

Lord of all, bless us and hear us.

Jesus lover of the outcast, the sick and the weak, reveal yourself and lift the spirits of the helpless, frustrated and angry. You, who shared this earthly life, rejoicing and celebrating with us in the many gifts and wonders therein. Curb the natural instincts of selfishness, recklessness and violence in people at this time of risk and trial, celebrate with us the goodness and kindness shown by so many. Reassure and calm the lonely, the frightened and the troubled.

Jesus, Son of God, bless us and hear us.

Holy Spirit, breath of life and love, awaken in us all, the energy to speak and act. Release your power within each of us and guide us to bring about change. Release through us your peace and harmony that it may visit and rest with all we meet and with all we speak, reaching into the hearts and minds of all people.

Holy Spirit bless us, empower us, hear us.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, One whose very nature is wholeness and community. Rest upon our own communities as we come together and are yet separated. Source of all sharing in which we come to love, meet and know our neighbour, grant us grace and generosity through which may be revealed life in all its goodness, life in all its fullness from which springs all things new.

God the Father, God beyond us,  
God the Son, God beside us,  
God the Spirit, God around us,  
Father, Son and Spirit within us,  
Amen

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**THE PEACE:**

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace to you from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.  
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.  
The peace of the triune God be always with you.  
And also with you.

As our worship draws to a close, let us pray for God's blessing on each other for the coming week and for always.

**BLESSING:**

It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

*\*(The Othona Psalms were composed by Colin Hodgetts for use in the Othona Community's chapels at its two centres in Burton Bradstock, Dorset, and Bradwell-on Sea, Essex. Print copies are available from Amazon.co.uk)*

*!(I thank You God for most this amazing day by e e cummings, in Complete Poems 1904 – 1962)*