

Trinity Sunday 2022, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

The language of the Trinity permeates our services, in liturgy, hymns, prayers, and creeds. The revelation of God as a **Trinity** was gradual. Throughout the Old Testament God is seen as the one and only God, the creator and law-giver, who chose a people as his own. Only in the coming of the Son, Jesus Christ, and then the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, is God fully revealed as Trinity. We express this in *The Creeds*, as we affirm our belief and trust in one God, revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This a challenging idea to get our minds around. It will always be a mystery, but it is how the first Christians experienced God, as well as millions since, and is the foundation of all that we believe about God.

We often say the words of **The Grace** as a prayer together (Messy Church) from 2 Corinthians 13:13, *'May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen'*. This expresses some of the characteristics of how we experience God in these **three ways**.

*'May the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ', 'God's riches at Christ's expense'*

*'Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this **grace** in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.'* (Romans 5:1-2)

St Paul says that we are justified, ie forgiven, put right with God, through Jesus Christ. We therefore live in his grace of forgiveness, each day a gift, and we look forward in hope to one day sharing God's glory in heaven. We see grace in Jesus' example of love, expressed in his truthfulness, compassion and willingness to serve others. I think grace is a quality that characterises our Queen, Elizabeth, as we reflected last week-end.

We see the Trinity at work in **Jesus' life**, Jesus living constantly in relationship with the Father, listening to him, relying on him, as the Spirit guides and works through Jesus in powerful acts and miracles.

Today **we also** have a relationship with God as Father made possible by Jesus the Son, and made real by the Holy Spirit, so we can call God '*Father*' as we do in the Lord's Prayer, or the more personal name '*Abba*' which Jesus used for his Father.

*'the **love** of God'*, the Father, who created us in love, who sent Jesus to show his love, and who welcomes us home with loving arms after our journey through this world.

Psalm 139:14, *'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.'*

God, our Father, created each of us uniquely and wonderfully, able to know and love our Father in return.

*'**God's love** has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.'* (Romans 5:5b) We experience God's love, by the work of the Holy Spirit, in each of our lives. '*God is love*', says John, and it is by love that we show we are his children and followers of his Son. Love being the first and chief fruit of the Spirit.

*'the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit'*, which we experience sometimes directly, but more often through one another, as the friendship, comfort, strengthening, wisdom, guidance, love, joy and peace that the Holy Spirit brings to us, and nurtures between the members of the Church. Fellowship is something shared with others.

*'When the Spirit of **truth** comes, he will guide you into all the **truth**.'* (John 16:13a)

The Holy Spirit also helps us to live lives of integrity, truthfulness; to discern truth, to tell right from wrong, working through our consciences, to enable us to know and follow God's will for our lives, giving us peace as we follow God. So, we experience the Holy Spirit directly in our hearts and minds, and through others as we serve together in the Church.

The Grace is a lovely prayer, let's use it often as we pray for ourselves and one another.

May we come to experience God fully as Trinity, and live our lives in company with all three members of the Trinity.