



TRINITY SUNDAY

Trinity Sunday

June 7, 2020

Anglican Parish of Raymond Terrace
www.stjohnsraymondterrace.org

TRINITY SUNDAY

Pray

May I speak to you in the name of GOD – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen



Our opening passage – from the book of Exodus – describes how Moses appeared again before GOD to receive the 10 Commandments – ^again on 2 new pieces of stone to replace the ones which Moses broke. The passage from Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians concludes his message of wanting the Corinthians to remember the needs facing their Church. These are still appropriate and fitting for the Church today. When these qualities are not present, there are problems that must be dealt with. These traits do not come to a church by glossing over problems, conflicts, and difficulties. They are not produced by neglect, denial, withdrawal, or bitterness. They are by-products of the extremely hard work of solving problems. Just as Paul and the Corinthians had to hammer out difficulties to bring peace,

so we must APPLY the principles of GOD's Word and not just hear them.

^Paul's forward blessing invokes all THREE members of the Holy Trinity – FATHER (GOD), SON (LORD JESUS CHRIST) and HOLY SPIRIT. Although the term "TRINITY" is not explicitly used in Scripture, verses such as this one show that it was believed and experienced through knowing GOD's grace, love, and fellowship.

Paul was dealing with an ongoing problem in the Corinthian Church. He could have refused to communicate until they cleared up their situation; but he loved them and reached out to them again with the love of JESUS. Love, however, means that sometimes we must confront those we care about. Both authority and personal concern are needed in dealing with people who are ruining their lives with sin. But there are several wrong approaches in confronting others; and these can further break relationships rather than heal them. We can be legalistic and blast people away with the laws they should be obeying. We can turn away from them

because we do not want to face the situation. We can isolate them by gossiping about their problem and turning others against them as well. Or, like Paul, we can seek to build relationships by taking a better approach – sharing, communicating, and caring. This is a difficult approach that can drain us emotionally; but it is the best way for the other person; and it is the only CHRIST-like way to deal with others' sin.

Like our previous reading, our Gospel passage comes right at the end of Matthew's Gospel. It's always reassuring to find that others have doubts. We've spoken about this before – doubts are OK if they lead us to investigate further, learn and move forward in a positive way. If we have doubts and do nothing, it can have the opposite effect.

Unlike John's story of Thomas, Matthew didn't single out one disciple as the doubter. He says that "some doubted." While Thomas was clear about his doubt, Matthew didn't say why they doubted—or what they doubted. JESUS didn't address the disciples' doubt

here like He did with Thomas in John's Gospel. ^He simply gives them what has come to be known as the Great Commission: ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. Most of us have doubts – and GOD can equip all of us to the tasks to which we are called to carry out.

Tom McGrath - who is a Chicago-based author and has previously served as the executive editor of *U.S. Catholic* magazine – puts it this way:

Jesus gained their attention. His authority came through, stirred their faith, which then began to drive out their fear—demons of fear driven out like all those other demons that had fled before him in towns and villages. “Go!” he told them. “Go.” Who is this guy – they may have thought. “Make disciples of all nations,” he told them. ALL nations? Isn't JESUS the King of

the Jews? “Wasn’t that *our* birthright?” they wondered. “Weren’t *we* the ones he came for?” With this gift seeming to be in peril, they tried to grip it more tightly. It began to slip from their fingers.

“Baptize them,” he told them.

“How?” they wondered. “Shall we baptize like John at the Jordan? Shall we tell these latecomers the axe is already at the root?”

“Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” he told them.

“What?” they asked. “Who?” they wondered. “In whose name?” the 11 disciples pondered. “Do they even deserve it?” was the question they thought but didn’t dare say.

“Teach them to obey everything that I commanded you,” he told them.

“We can’t remember everything you told us,” they worried.

“Remember,” he told them. “Remember.”

So, they stopped and remembered. They came to their senses.

“I am with you always,” he told them.

“We remember,” they said.

And then they went.

Try to imagine the radically altered worldview these disciples experienced. From the first day they met their itinerant preacher, through the time of his healing and demon expelling and miracle working, through his clashes with Jewish leaders and his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, through his arrest, torture and death, and then his resurrection and startling appearances, following Jesus was never predictable or dull.

What a challenge these experiences must have been to the disciples’ understanding of the nature of God and to their expectations of how they ought to relate to this God! At each step of the way, the disciples’ interaction with Jesus stretched their limits and pushed their boundaries beyond the comfort zone. Perhaps the biggest stretch for this group of committed monotheists

was the dawning revelation of the triune nature of God. After all, every day of their lives they had prayed, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.” Now Jesus was introducing the notion that there was more going on within this God than they previously suspected.

We too live in a time of disorientation and disruption – especially during these last few months. Presently, we gather online to worship the Lord, but parts of us are plagued with doubts. We are told to “Go” and we want to stay. But there is no idyllic place to return to. We can only be right here, right now. Thankfully, that is the place and time to encounter God—in fact, the only place and time we humans can experience the divine—right here, right now.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, the disciples took up their commission by beginning right where they were. They preached in Galilee. They moved on to preach in Jerusalem. Knowing that the message was not to be kept under wraps, they found ways and means to

spread the Good News far and wide. We are to start where we are too. St. Paul offers the Corinthians—and us—a practical formula for how to be disciples: “Mend your ways, heed my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace.” When we freely offer the world the good news that we have received, we will emulate the Trinity. We will be participating in the very life of God.



The Trinity has been talked of as a mystery – the mystery of our faith. Some have even suggested that it is a mathematical conundrum. It is obvious to us a Christians that it is the perfection of love as shown in community. JESUS tells us to baptise in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ^Paul concludes his 2nd letter to the Corinthians with the words of the Grace: [13The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.](#) David Tomlins, a Cistercian Monk wrote that: “This Trinitarian formula celebrates the glowing heart of our lives as creatures, as disciples and as Church. When we consider the mystery of our own existence we may well

ask “What is man that you should keep him in mind, mortal man that you should care for him?” GOD has answered us in human experience: The Father so loved the world He had created in CHRIST that He sent His only Son that we might eternal life in the Holy Spirit. GOD – Father Son and Holy Spirit – has crowned us with glory and honour. It is only right that we respond: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit – to GOD who is, who was, and who is to come.



May we pray:

GOD our Father, you have sent your Son into the world for the salvation of all people; and through the power of the Holy Spirit, you have lifted all nations to your glory. Grant that every believer bear this good news to the ends of the earth. This we pray in the name of JESUS. Amen

Life Application Study Bible

Daily Prayer 2020

https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2005-05/doubt-and-promise?code=3yWNqI7NEpiHBmdRJwJK&utm_campaign=167b2856b3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_09_11_08_32_COPY_08&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Christian+Century+Newsletter&utm_term=0_b00cd618da-167b2856b3-86182999 Date accessed 6 June 2020