

Year A Trinity Sunday 31st May 2026

Genesis 1:1- 2:4a. 2 Corinthians 13:11-13. Matthew 28:16-20

Today marks Trinity Sunday, when we celebrate God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You'll be relieved to hear I'm not going to try and explain the Trinity, mainly because I don't think there is a suitable analogy or explanation that works. And also because I don't want to commit a heresy! In fact I saw a Facebook meme last night that said, 'How not to commit heresy on the Trinity...say nothing and show pictures of kittens instead.' But I would show pictures of dogs...

Despite how many times I have preached on Trinity Sunday, and had to write about it in my theological studies, to me it feels right to accept it is a holy mystery and live with it. That approach takes some discipline, including for me. I like to have my theology sorted out and fully explicable. Generally, I don't like loose ends. But with the Trinity I can let my need for a full understanding to slide...

The most important aspect of the Trinity is that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are in community with each other, receiving and giving love to each other in equal measure. Since as Christians we believe that we are all made in God's image, it follows that we too are made to be in community with each other.

The reading from the first chapter of Genesis is very familiar to us. Probably the most poetic version of this is found in the King James version – not always a most accurate translation, but in Genesis 1 the writers got a real sense of the poetic nature of the text. Today I just want to remind you that chapter 1 verse 31 states that, at the end of the sixth and final day of creation, 'God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.'

Too often, I think the church gets too caught up with the 4th century Augustinian- inspired concept that there was original sin. You won't find that in the Bible. But you will find the affirmation that all that God had made was very good. I would ask you to view the world, God's creation through that lens. To me this is a fundamental approach that undergirds our faith. If we can't look at the world through this lens, then it makes it nigh on impossible to look at every other human being as being made in the image of God, and loved by God just as we too are loved by God.

Today, we are marking the end of an era at St James. Ian and Brigitte Fuge are down-sizing and moving to Scone, near Perth. They have attended this church since 1979, not quite as long as a few folk here, but 47 years is a long time! I had just started my first proper job in the Civil Service in London at the age of 19!

It is therefore lovely and most apposite to have the theme of the Trinity today, as we mark, celebrate, and give thanks for their time with us, living in this faith community, a community of respect, love and mutual care, that we try to achieve day by day as we feel inspired by the example of the life of Jesus. Ian and Brigitte have been active members of the congregation, and have done so much for this church over the years. The most visible aspect has been their ministry of music, singing in the choir. But like so many others, they have also done the less visible or indeed invisible work of the church over the years too. The everyday activities that go to make for a community of faith living out the good news.

In our reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians we heard his words of farewell to that faith community. One of the main messages of this letter was to remind the community in Corinth to live by the new covenant God had made available to all those who believe in Jesus and live a life of peace and blessings. At the end of his letter Paul signs off with a form of the Grace, and it is the only time Paul mentions the Trinity.

Our reading from the Gospel of Matthew, is the last five verses of that gospel. It is called the Great Commission. In Matthew's gospel he doesn't state how many days there were after the resurrection of Easter Day before the disciples gathered as instructed on the mountain in the region of Galilee. To Matthew, of much greater importance was the words Jesus spoke. '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, and teaching them everything that I have commanded you.' This is the only other mention of the Trinity in the New Testament, along with the one we heard in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

The Great Commission ends with these words, 'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

So as we give thanks to God for all that Ian and Brigitte have done for this church over the last forty-seven years, may we wish them all of God's blessings

for the next chapter of their lives, and know that they will be in our prayers, and that Jesus will be with them, always. Just as he is also with us, always.

Ian and Brigitte, May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance and give you peace. Amen.