

Bulletin for Sunday 30th May 2021

Good Morning, friends.

This week is Trinity Sunday, when Trinity URC in Billingshurst celebrate their Church Anniversary... and also, of course, when we think about “God in three Persons, blessed Trinity”, in the familiar words of our first hymn.

Let’s pause as we prepare to worship..... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty (R&S 34)

Prayer: We praise you, Eternal Creator God,
mystery beyond our understanding, yet also our maker.
We praise you Jesus, the Christ,
for sharing our life and showing us how to love.
We praise you, Holy Spirit,
for moving and surprising and inspiring our faith.
Only God, in the midst of life,
we ask your blessing on everything we do,
and everything we give in your service,
today and every day. Amen

followed by The Lord’s Prayer

Readings: Isaiah ch. 6, verses 1-8 and John ch. 3, verses 1-17

Reflection:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Isaiah encounters God in the temple, and the vision of God he has is very powerful - the whole temple shakes as the seraphs call these words. Known as the ‘Sanctus’ the words have been taken up into Christian services and they’ve inspired many great church musicians to create some absolutely awe-inspiring music, which you have probably heard and may well even have sung. That sense of awe really comes through from Isaiah’s feelings of God’s vastness and his own insignificance!

We can also have experiences of God that leave us with a sense of wonder - and a sense of our own smallness in the scheme of things. Experiences that may have a life-long effect on our faith, and change the direction of our lives; truly a gift of God.

What such experiences don’t tend to do, however, is make God simple to comprehend. Just like Nicodemus, if we try to ‘get our heads around’ God, we may find that one question just leads on to another, and another. Jesus teases him gently for being, ‘a teacher of Israel’, and yet not understanding; but in truth there are no experts on God! God is both close to us - experienced in our relationships with each other and in the world around us - and at the same time infinite in time

and space, a mystery completely beyond us. But what we can know is that the God who made us, and the whole universe, loves us enough to get totally involved: to share our pain and joy, our human life and death. And God's Spirit leads us onwards, opening our eyes and ears and inspiring us to follow. We are privileged to be followers, disciples, with Nicodemus. Amen.

Hymn: Eternal God, your love's tremendous glory (R&S 33)

Prayer: Eternal and Compassionate God
We pray for the world you created:
that it may be treated with respect and care
and its resources shared with justice and generosity.
We pray for those you taught us to love:
the marginalised, the rejected, and all those in need.
We pray for an awareness of your presence in the world:
lead us and inspire us with the breath of your Spirit.
Loving God, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken,
in Jesus' name Amen

Hymn: God is love: let heaven adore him (R&S 95)

Blessing: May the wonder of God always draw us onwards;
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love
now and always. Amen

In all our churches morning worship at 10.30am is now being held indoors.
Please remember masks and social distancing; congregational singing is not allowed, services are short and well ventilated!
Please let your Church Secretary know you want to attend.

On Zoom, the evening 'Sunday at Six' service, with hymns, is at 6pm. Our last exploration (for now) in the book of Genesis before we move further into the Old Testament.
And the best chances to chat are at the 11.30am 'After Church Coffee' Zooms!

Anne Lewitt