

Tavistock Methodist Circuit 'At Home Service'

Sunday 12th June, 2022 – Trinity Sunday (Prepared by Prim Skedgell)

Call to worship – O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for Him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. Psalm 8 vs.1,3,4,5.

Hymn – Immortal, invisible, God only wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise.
2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting nor wasting, Thou rulest in might - Thy justice like mountains high soaring above Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all life Thou givest, to both great and small; in all life Thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.
4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight; all praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.
5. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Prayer – Father we come to You and thank You for Your handiwork in creation. We praise You for the beauty we see around us in grandeur of hills and valleys, streams and seas, colours of flowers in garden and hedgerow. We thank You too for Your tiny works of creation for the living creatures and organisms that we can't see with the naked eye, and yet there is life! – thank You Lord.

We thank You too Father for Your gift of Jesus who came in such a humble way as a tiny Baby, who lived on earth as one of us. We thank You for His teaching, so precious in Your Word the Bible and for His suffering and death and praise You, for His resurrection too, breaking the power of death and opening the way for us to find forgiveness when we come in penitence to You. He is now at Your right hand interceding for us.

Thank You too Father for Your gift of the Holy Spirit, for His coming in power and equipping us to serve You in our everyday lives. We pray that we may allow Your Holy Spirit to have His way in our lives that we may live for Your honour and glory and at Your prompting and leading.

Minister to us now as we spend a little while looking to You Lord in this time of worship, speak to us Lord the word that we need to hear. Thank You Lord.

We share together – **The Lord's Prayer**

Hymn - Holy, holy, holy is the Lord

1. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, holy is the Lord God Almighty. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

2. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord, worthy is the Lord God Almighty. Worthy, worthy, worthy, is the Lord worthy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord.

3. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord, Jesus is the Lord God Almighty. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord, Jesus is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.

4. Glory, glory, glory to the Lord, glory to the Lord God Almighty. Glory, glory, glory to the Lord glory to the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Glory, glory, glory to the Lord.

Please find your Bible and read: **John 16 vs12-15**
 Romans 5 vs.1-5

Reflection – To understand that although God is far beyond our comprehension, we can see Him at work.

As we look at the two passages we have just read, hopefully we can see the work of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in bringing us to a better understanding of the work of the Godhead in us and in our world.

John 16 vs.12-15 is a small section of what is known as Jesus' farewell discourse to His disciples. John records the conversations that Jesus had prior to His death where He spoke about particularly significant matters which His disciples needed to grasp. Part of this conversation was about the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus called the Counsellor or Advocate. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity – He convicts of sin and also guides into all truth. In verses 12-15, Jesus summarises something of the complexity of the Trinity – Father, Son and Spirit are separate beings, and yet cooperate and serve one another; listening to each other and sharing from one another. God is beyond our understanding and all attempts to explain God fall down at some point, yet we see Father, Son and Spirit at work in different ways.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would tell the disciples 'what is yet to come' – the nature of their mission, the opposition they would face, and the final outcome of their efforts. They didn't fully understand these promises until the Holy Spirit came after Jesus' death and resurrection. Then the Holy Spirit revealed truths to the disciples that they wrote down in the books in the New Testament which we read today.

In Romans 5 vs.1-5, Paul seeks to express something of the interaction of the Trinity in regard to our salvation. Because of faith in Jesus, we are justified (made right) and therefore we can live at peace with God the Father. We are loved by the Father and the Son, but we are able to experience that love because the Holy Spirit is within us, 'poured into our hearts' (v5). God's work within us is a complex process that we don't always immediately recognise. Paul challenges us to rejoice in our sufferings. Often, those who have learned to respond positively to God's ways seem to have developed the most Christ-like character and the deepest hope.

We are shown some difficult concepts in Romans – on one hand we are complete in Christ (our acceptance with Him is secure). On the other hand, we are growing in Christ (we are becoming more and more like Him). At one and the same time, we have the status of kings and the duties of slaves. We feel the presence of Christ and the pressure of sin. We enjoy the peace that comes from being made right with God, but we still face daily problems that often help us to grow. If we remember these two sides of the Christian life, we will not grow discouraged as we face temptations and problems. Instead we will learn to depend on the

power available to us from Christ, who lives in us by the Holy Spirit. We will face sufferings, but we rejoice in our sufferings because they produce perseverance, which produces character, which produces hope – and hope will not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord!

What does Jesus tell us in John 16 that the Holy Spirit will do in our lives:-

He will come to show what is true

He will tell what He has heard from Jesus

He will let you know what is going to happen

He will bring glory to Jesus by taking Jesus' message and sharing it

Note too that the Father shares all He has with Jesus.

The disciples were gradually beginning to understand that when they looked at Jesus, they saw God Himself. These points indicate just how the three persons in the Trinity are all bound up together. In Romans, Paul mentions three things in particular that Jesus has shown us about God's character, peace, grace (undeserved kindness) and glory.

So we understand some things, but not everything about God – He is incomprehensible. But as Jesus said in the reading from John, the Spirit will come and lead us into 'all truth' so we will gradually understand more and more of God and come to understand just how much more there is to know. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to show us more of God. God bless you all. Amen

Hymn – Spirit of holiness

Chorus - Spirit of holiness, wisdom and faithfulness, wind of the Lord, blowing strongly and free;

strength of our serving and joy of our worshipping; Spirit of God, bring your fulness to me.

1. You came to interpret and teach us effectively all that the Saviour has spoken and done; to glorify Jesus is all Your activity; Promise and Gift of the Father and Son.

Chorus

2. You came with Your gifts to supply all our poverty, pouring Your love on the Church in her need;

You came with Your fruit for our growth to maturity, richly refreshing the souls that You feed:

Chorus

Let us prepare for our prayers of confession and intercession - Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Prayers - We come to say sorry Lord for our many failures, shortcomings and following our own desires and not finding time for You. Father, as we live our lives in this coming week, we ask that we will know the Holy Spirit in our lives:-

Open our ears – to hear what You are saying to us in the things that happen to us and in the people we meet

Open our eyes – to see the needs of the people around us – we think particularly of.....

Open our hands – to do our work well, to help where help is needed – lead us to those who need our help – we think particularly of.....

Open our lips – to tell others the good news of Jesus and bring comfort, happiness and laughter to other people – we think particularly of.....

Open our minds – to discover new truth about You and the world – show us Lord what we should do for You.

Open our hearts – to love You and our fellow men as You have loved us in Jesus.

Father God we bring to You the situations in our world where there is so much suffering, fear, injustice and pain. We think of the Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and many of the countries in Africa. We pray for those who have lost families and friends because of war and persecution and ask Father that Your healing touch may be felt by those in need. Touch our pockets to give, keep us on our knees to pray and give us hearts of compassion to respond Lord to the cries of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Amen

Hymn:- How wonderful, how glorious

Chorus - How wonderful, how glorious is the love of God, bringing healing, forgiveness, wonderful love.

1. Let celebration echo through this land; we bring reconciliation, we bring hope to ev'ry man.

Chorus

2. We proclaim the kingdom of our God is here; come and join the heavenly anthem ringing loud and ringing clear:

Chorus

3. Listen to the music as His praises fill the air; with joy and with gladness tell the people everywhere:

Chorus

Blessing – Go out into the world in peace. Be brave; keep hold of what is good; never pay back wrong for wrong; encourage the faint-hearted; support the weak and the distressed; give due honour to everyone. Be always joyful; pray continually; give thanks whatever happens; for this is what God in Christ wills for you. Amen.