

Trinity Sunday – 7.6.20

Today is Trinity Sunday. The day that we remember that God has revealed himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is and always will be ONE God.

This can be a difficult concept for us to get our minds around.

But a simple analogy is to consider ourselves – who are we?

Well, I am at one and the same time, a father, son and husband. I'm one person but have at least three different ways of being.

So, it is with God.

He is one person but he has revealed himself to us as a Father who creates as a Son who saves his world and as a Spirit who is in our lives – all three happening at the one time – all three important relationships, but at the same time all three are in perfect unity, cannot be separated, because they are all the same Being – God.

Simple isn't it!

All we have to do is to allow those three different relationships, three different ways of understanding God, to become central to our lives.

So, let us go to this most beautiful window in our church.

History of the window.... This is the Millennium Window and one which celebrates three millennia of the Christian faith and focuses on the Trinity. The upper circle represents Christ; the cross is formed by the dark glass and the stone mullion and the circle contains the symbols of the gospel writers, Matthew – angel; Mark – Lion; Luke – Bull and John the Eagle.

Let's see what this window has to say to us this morning.

The lower left circle represents God the Father and uses the symbol of the burning bush from Exodus with the church of Scotland motto, “And yet it was not consumed”.

We have an image of the invisible God at the burning bush. The God that comes to Moses and communicates with him. This is where God met with Moses – This is sacred ground – He spoke to challenge him to go back to Egypt to set his people free.

Moses, who had been in the desert as a refugee for 40 years, had settled in the desert, was married and had children, and had made a life for himself, was suddenly called to go and do a new task.

God speaks to him to risk everything and go back to set his people free.

God is our Heavenly Father, an image of God that was very much on Jesus' mind. He taught them how to pray...*Our Father in heaven*. For Jesus, God was not distant but a living reality in his life and so he could call him Father.

So, in this image of the burning bush, we have God as a loving Father, calling Moses to go and save his people. Calling Moses to do his work on his behalf, and he promised to Moses that he would be with him at all times.

God took Moses' 40 years in the desert and used all this experience to support the Israelites, who themselves would be in the desert for 40 years until crossing the Jordan.

Perhaps today this image of God, the God of the Burning Bush, may speak to you words of call, words of challenge, words of commitment. *Who will go for me...* is the call that God sends. Maybe today we can say, *I will go*.

But this window also features, the dove of peace. On the window are the words, *Come Creator Spirit*. Words that have been chanted for many years by Christians.

Last week we celebrated Pentecost and we made a video for Pentecost which you can see at RevJohn's Ramblings. The theme of *come creator spirit* was very much in our minds.

You see, God comes to us as a creator God and gives us life, but he also breathes his spirit into our souls, without the spirit of God there would be no life.

God gives life. He took the first people and made them from dust and they were lifeless until God breathed into them.

Yes, we all have the spirit of life, but the Christian also has the Spirit of Jesus breathed into their soul.

When we commit our lives to Christ; when we respond to that call from God, to go and do his work; we don't do it alone, but we do it with the spirit of Jesus in our hearts and souls.

This leads me onto the third depiction of God in this window and it is no surprise that Jesus is at the centre. Not that he is better or more important than the other two but that he is our focus. Paul writes that He is the image of the invisible God.

That is the wonderful thing about the Christian faith, that the invisible God took on our human flesh and entered our world, to save us from sin, and all that would mar the people that God wants us to be.

This window doesn't give us a picture of Jesus as other windows in this church do, but this window points us to where we can discover more of Jesus and where we can grow to love him and to follow him.

It points us to the gospels, the most wonderful stories of Jesus, that give us a great insight into the remarkable life of this solitary man.

He came to his own, but his own did not receive him; however those who did, received the gift of life.

On the window are the words:

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever from Hebrews 13 v18. How relevant are those words for us today, as we face the challenges of our generation, that God doesn't change and, as he saved the people of Israel from Egypt, and as he died on a cross for our sin, so he comes to us again and reminds us that he is a constant in our lives. He is with us always and for evermore.