

REEMERGING TOGETHER 3

Trinity Sunday 7th June 2020



WE COME IN AWE BEFORE OUR TRIUNE GOD, TO BE INSPIRED TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HE WHO HAS RELATIONSHIP AT HIS VERY CENTRE- FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT- THREE PERSONS, ONE GOD

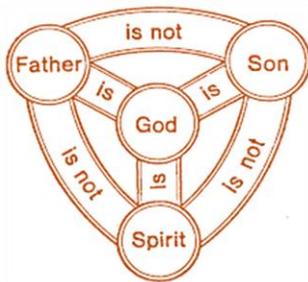
READINGS:

MATTHEW CH3 V13-17

BAPTISM OF JESUS

DANIEL CH2 V1-23

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM



think about what the Bible tells us God is like. God reveals himself to us in a Holy Trinity- Father, Son and Holy Spirit- all three are totally different from each other but also completely one. We notice that the egg is made up of shell, white and yoke- each piece is unique, yet an egg would not be an egg if it were missing one of them, each piece is its own thing but an egg is only an egg when they are together. This same idea is shared with the skin, flesh and pips of an apple. Then there is water, ice and steam- all the same thing yet appearing in different ways- ice and steam are the same as water in what they are made of but the circumstances surrounding them mean they look different. While these ideas are good at helping us think, they also don't really come close to explaining the true nature of the Trinity- it is a mystery, but that's ok, if God was easy to put in a box and define then he wouldn't really be God! On the back of the page draw the diagram pictured above- the Bible shows us that this is what God is like but we can't work it out for ourselves- God reveals it to us and asks us to accept it by faith. God is- Three in One and One in Three- Father, Son and Holy Spirit- all equally important- all different- yet united as One. When we sit to wonder about this, it must make us think- how amazing is our God! **'Pray:** 'Great God, when we think about the wonder of the Trinity today we simply pray-, Love of Jesus, fill us. Holy Spirit, guide us. Will of the Father be done. Amen'

PRAYERS

O God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in whose name we are baptised and into whose fellowship we have been received. We cling in faith to you, the only God. We praise you dear Father, for having loved us and sent your Son to die for our sins. We praise you dear Jesus, for having redeemed us from our sins by sacrificing yourself for us. We praise you, Holy Spirit, for having sanctified us, for you gave us faith, and through faith cleansed us from sin. O Triune God, graciously enable us always to believe and obey, and to worship and confess you; Creator, Redeemer and Sanctified, one God, eternal and all-glorious forever.

Take a moment to pray for NHS staff, key workers, those affected by coronavirus, vulnerable children, the elderly or lonely, our Prime Minister and government officials, our families and friends, the world and church near and far- lift to God the people and places that lie heavy upon your heart

'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' Matthew ch28 v19

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

Three in One and One in Three! Grab a piece of paper and fold it into three, when you set it out flat again the page will have three sections to it. In section one draw an egg cut open- label the shell, white and yolk. In section two draw water being poured, ice cubes and rising steam. In section three draw an apple cut open- label the skin, flesh and pips. **Think about it:** Here are three ways to help us



DEVOTIONAL

What is God like?

The Westminster Shorter Catechism, answering the question ‘*What is God?*’ states as follows: ‘*God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.*’ Two questions later further truth about God is explored by the asking ‘*How many persons are there in the Godhead?*’ The answer, ‘*There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three*

are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.’ While it is of great help to us to have the truth of God’s word so set out for us it can sometimes be difficult to translate the descriptive and theological language used into our everyday lives. When we think of the Trinity there are two aspects which we ought to focus upon that can help give a fuller sense of the meaning of the catechism’s words- these concepts are ***relationship*** and ***revelation***

At his very centre God has relationship, we can see again and again throughout the pages of Scripture that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit share an intimate and beautiful fellowship of love and purpose. This is wonderfully displayed at the baptism of Jesus where all three persons of the Trinity appear at once- Jesus, the dove of the Spirit and the voice of the Father- what point does this tri-appearance underline? The relationship at the centre of the Trinity, as the Spirit lights Jesus his Father declares ‘*This is my son, whom I love...*’ That’s why the Bible tells us that ‘*God is love*’, he is the God of relationship and calls us, through faith in his Son, to share in fellowship with him. Those in relationship with each other set out to care for and share with each other and that is exactly what God promises, that those who trust in the work of Jesus will, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, belong to him and share the inheritance of the kingdom he is building.

No matter how long we spend, no matter how deep our logical thinking we will never truly be able to wrap our heads around the idea of the Trinity. No matter what clever device we use, it will fall short of the true marvel- it is a mystery! This rather than being a problem for us is actually a blessing, if Christianity was a made up story, there would be no way that a concept such as the Trinity would ever have come to be, it can’t be explained yet it is there, it can’t be clarified but it is front and centre. While God graciously shows us his nature, it still remains a mystery to us- the God who is beyond us has stooped down for us to glimpse the amazing truth of who he is. In other words while we cannot fully understand, it has been given to us as a revelation, God has revealed to us that which we could not fathom by our own ability- namely that when we look to him we look to a God who is one, yet who is three- Father, Son and Holy Spirit-three persons, one God.

Daniel, among his fellow Jews in exile in Babylon finds himself in an unmanageable situation, King Nebuchadnezzar has asked the impossible, he wishes his dream to be interpreted without sharing what took place within it. All the clever men serving the king were stumped, this is something that cannot be known by earthly ability, it is a mystery. Daniel after sharing in fellowship and prayer is relieved when ‘*the mystery was revealed*’ by God through a vision. God gave Daniel by revelation what he could never have achieved via reason and this drove Daniel to praise and worship- ‘*Parise be to the name of God for ever...He reveals deep and hidden things...I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers...*’ When we consider the mystery of the Trinity we too ought to be brought to praise and worship of God, who has revealed such wonders to us that we could never have come to know without him. May the might of his revelation show to us the beauty of relationship so that we would live for him and with each other in such a way that he, our God- Father, Son and Holy Spirit would be glorified.

***God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Spirit, three in one.***

***God the Father loves me so,
Gave His Word so I would know.
God the Father, God the Son,
God the Spirit three in one***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CREGAGH REEMERGING TOGETHER

Each Friday morning I will email out an update like this one, which will include a devotional, children's activity, prayer points and readings. These can be hand delivered or posted if necessary, if you hear of anyone who is not receiving a copy, or if you know of someone outside of our congregation who might benefit from receiving one please let us know.

OPEN CHURCH

The church building will be open on Monday 10am-12noon, 6-8pm and Fridays 10am-12noon for private prayer. A one-way system, social distancing and hygiene procedures will be in effect. The facility to drop off church envelopes is also now available during these times. During Monday evenings and Friday mornings the organ will be played for a time.

PRAYER

The fortnightly Prayer Link will be sent out this incoming week, if you have any prayer requests please pass them on, if you do not receive the Prayer Link but would like to via email or printed copy please let me know.

BIBLE STUDY

If you would be interested in joining our Zoom Bible study group please email me. We meet on Mon evenings at 7pm, however another time can be arranged, or another group formed if required. I would encourage you to take part or contact me about setting up another group at an alternative time.

GARDEN CHAT OR VISIT

If you would like to 'book in' for a socially distanced chat in the side garden of the church on a Tues or Thurs afternoon please contact me, individuals or groups of up to five people are very welcome. Also if you would like a socially distanced visit in your own front garden, I am conducting these on Wed afternoons, please get it touch.

CHRISTIAN AID

Thank you for your donations to the work of Christian Aid, however our collection this year has been much less than in previous years, if you would still like to contribute please leave a contribution marked Christian Aid in the offering box, send a cheque to the church with addition note marking in as for Christian Aid, or contact Gordon (028 90 453 829) about making an electronic payment.

EMC UPDATE

Hard copies of the update from Emmanuel Ministries Calcutta are available, if you would like one please let me know

GET IN TOUCH

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of any help whatsoever, if you need messages or even if you would just like a chat.