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TRINITY SUNDAY A

7th June 2020

A short act of worship for use in peoples homes
while churches are closed.

A free resource funded by **twelve**baskets.

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

Opening prayer

We gather in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.
All-encompassing God, open us to your presence this day we pray.
Amen¹

Hymn 657 STF You give rest to the weary - [YouTube](#)

You give rest to the weary,
You bring strength to weak;
As they wait in Your presence,
There is grace for their need.

*So I'll wait, I'll wait,
Yes I'll wait for you.
I will say of the Lord 'He is my refuge.'
I will say of the Lord 'He is my strength.'
I will say of the Lord 'He is my shelter, my hiding place'*

You can come in the silence;
You can come in the noise.
Bringing peace in a moment,
Bringing comfort and joy.

So I'll wait, I'll wait...

I will come to the source of all creation;
I will drink from the well that never dries.
I will draw from the one who won't grow tired, the Lord of all.

So I'll wait, I'll wait...

Prayers

Great Creator God, as we worship you today our hearts are filled with awe:
we see your glory in the night sky, the moon and stars shining on, century
after century,
we see your glory in the land around our feet, beauty and abundance to
sustain life,
we see your glory in all people, humankind made in your image,
we worship you.

Jesus Christ our Redeemer, as we worship you today our hearts are filled with
praise:

¹ Opening prayer by Wayne Grewcock

you are the timeless Word of God, through whom all things were created,
you are the incarnate Word of God, demonstrating life in all its fullness,
you are the eternal Word of God, present with us now and to the end of the
age, we worship you.

Holy Spirit, Energy of God, as we worship you today our hearts are filled with
wonder:

we feel you sweeping across the earth now, as you swept over the waters at
creation

we feel you stirring your church now, as you first stirred the church at
Pentecost,

we feel you connecting your worldwide family now, as we are joined with one
another, we worship you.

Gracious God, One-in-Three and Three-in-One, accept our worship, our praise and
our wonder.

Reveal again to us your great glory through your Living Word, as we are transformed
by your tireless Spirit. We worship you. Amen.²

We say The Lord's Prayer

Readings: Genesis 1:1-2, 4a - [Click for Reading](#)

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 - [Click for Reading](#)

Matthew 28:16-20 - [Click for Reading](#)

Reflection on the readings

Trinity Sunday is probably one of the hardest Sunday's to lead worship on,
theologically speaking – as we have to grapple with one of the great mysterious of
faith: how is God one-in-three and three-in-one? Today, we are going to rely on some
wise thoughts from Bishop Tom Wright taken from his book Twelve Months of
Sunday.

“The beginnings of Trinitarian thinking, in the New Testament, are powerful and
relevant, designed to help in time of need, to bind us together in love, to send us out
on our mission.

People often puzzle, reading Matthew's conclusion, over Jesus himself offering his
followers the first-ever 'trinitarian' formula as their baptismal symbol. Actually, the
whole passage is implicitly trinitarian; if there wasn't a trinitarian formula somewhere
we'd have to supply one to make sense of it all.

² Prayers written by Jill Baker

What does it mean to say that all authority, in both created realms (heaven and earth), has been given to Jesus? What does it mean to say that he is truly the Emmanuel, with his followers to the close of the age? The Trinity is a doctrine about Jesus: it safeguards the reality of his humanness, then and now, as the true and final revelation of the one true God. It simultaneously unites him with, and distinguishes him from, the unseen source of all, on the one hand, and the breath of life that sustains us now, on the other. And the point of it all is mission: the God revealed in Jesus is the missionary God, sending his healing love into the world in Jesus, and now, under Jesus' authority, sending Jesus' followers out with that same healing love, of which baptism is the sign and seal.

So also in Paul. The trinitarian blessing is not bolted on to 2 Corinthians as an afterthought. It arises from the inner logic of the whole letter, as Paul wrestles with the grace of Jesus as the motive for his work, learns to live by the love of God in good times and bad, and celebrates the Spirit through whom he and his diverse, often difficult, congregations learn to see Christ in one another. It all comes down to very practical and basic matters, as 13.11 makes clear: sort things out, pay attention to what you are told, agree together, live in peace..."³

So as we sit at home reading or listen to this service, with our buildings closed, our committees not meeting – how do we sort things out? As this service was being put together, I kept coming back to Roger Walton's introduction and reflection on The Methodist Way of Life.

Is our next best step forward, given our current situation, that we start with ourselves and recommit ourselves to God and the Jesus Way? That we seek to discover more of God and share with others our thoughts, our doubts, our understanding of where God is calling us.

Perhaps if this is our next best step forward, we might delve deeper into what it means to be a follower of Christ in all aspects of our life. That instead of mourning that we cannot for the moment gather in buildings for a few hours a week, maybe it's time to seek those who are our spiritual brothers and sisters and discover how through prayer, through debate and conversation we can understand more what it means to be a follower of the triune God. Perhaps it's time for the rebirth of class meetings?

These last three week's resources have been encouraging us to seek anew God's way to Worship, to Learn and to Serve. To reset our focus in being a presence for God in the world, to look ahead, not behind. To invite God to do something in us, and then through us.

As Tom Wright puts it: "The beginnings of Trinitarian thinking, in the New Testament, are powerful and relevant, designed to help in time of need, to bind us together in love, to send us out on our mission."⁴

³ Taken by Twelve Months of Sundays by Tom Wright

⁴ Reflection by Wayne Grewcock

Prayers of intercession

We offer our prayers for others to the God who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, already present in every place, already bringing good out of every evil, already holding in love every person:

We hold in our prayers those who feel surrounded by chaos at this time... Lord, give calm.

We hold in our prayers those who walk in the valley of the shadow of death... Lord, give light.

We hold in our prayers those who are oppressed by violence and war... Lord, give peace.

We hold in our prayers those who seek to lead our communities, our nations and our world...

Lord, give wisdom.

We hold in our prayers those who find it hard to believe, who struggle with doubt... Lord, give courage.

We hold in our prayers those with whom we try to share the Good News of your love... Lord, give grace.

We rejoice in your promise to be with us always, to the end of the age, as we commend all those for whom we pray into the care of our Three-in-One God. Amen.⁵

Hymn 615 STF Let love be real - [YouTube](#)

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go.

*As God loves us, so let us love each other,
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;
that helps us face the risk of truly living,
and makes us brave to be what we might be.
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness,
give me your love in spite of all you know.

⁵ Prayers of intercession written by Jill Baker

Let love be real, with no manipulation,
no secret wish to harness or control;
let us accept each other's incompleteness,
and share the joy of learning to be whole.
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments,
give me your trust when all my failings show:

Blessing

May we be wrapped in the love of The Creator
May we be inspired by the life and teachings of our Saviour
And may we be empowered by the Holy Spirit, this day and forever more.
Amen⁶

⁶ Blessing by Wayne Grewcock