

Service for Week 9th -15th June 2025

Trinity Sunday By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving, Father God, beyond all space and time, ruler over all that is and has been and shall be, we worship you.

We worship you as God made known to us in Jesus Christ through his life and teachings and loving relationship with us.

We worship you as God we experience within us, who sets our hearts aflame and guides us through your Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.

Amen

Bible Reading Psalm 8:3-5

O LORD, our Lord,
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 honor.

2nd Bible Reading Romans 5:1-5

Peace and Joy

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

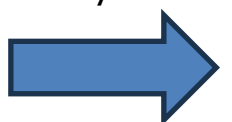
Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Last week we thought about the time of Pentecost, when God's Holy Spirit came to the Jesus's disciples and followers in the upper room. God's Holy Spirit, which is with us all, being an aspect of the one God of love. This Sunday is 'Trinity Sunday' the three aspects of one God is what we call the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son - Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit.

In Paul's letter to the early Christians in Rome he tells them that we are at peace with God through Jesus Christ because 'we have been justified through faith'. What does that mean? It means that despite our selfish, sinful nature and despite the fact we may



have done some very wrong things in life our sins are forgiven and we have the certain hope of eternal life.

Through our relationship with Jesus God's Son, we receive God's forgiveness. We have to be truly sorry for what we have done, to change our ways in future and to make amends for our wrongdoing if this is possible. But we don't have to do anything else to receive God's forgiveness. God's love, mercy and forgiveness is freely offered and given to us. We sometimes refer to this in our prayers as 'God's grace'. This act of forgiveness by God means that however far away from God we may think we are, we are welcomed, loved, and reconciled to God. We are part of God's family and we accept God's grace through Jesus Christ. Other faiths have their own understanding of how God's forgiveness is received.

Paul goes on to tell the early church in Rome that 'we also rejoice in our sufferings'. We know that the early Christians did face persecution and death. Several of the apostles were put to death, James was executed and Peter is believed to have been crucified in Rome during the persecutions of Christians by the Emperor Nero. Paul himself is also said to have been beheaded in Rome. It wasn't until 380 AD that Christianity became the official religion of Rome.

Paul writes that 'suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.' Paul was giving the early followers of Christ encouragement and hope despite the persecution they were facing. He reminds them that God's Holy Spirit is with them all to give them strength and hope.

That same hope we have today, it is with us when we face hardship and suffering in our own lives. That hardship could be financial or emotional, it may come through illness, disability or just our bodies getting older. What keeps us grounded and gives us strength to cope with hardships and carry on is God's love through the Holy Spirit, and the knowledge that we live in the certain hope of eternal life. It is a hope as Paul writes which 'does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.'

Each of us are loved and blessed by God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Closing Prayer.

Glory to you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for all eternity.

Amen.

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett