

## **Sermon Trinity Sunday 2016**

I expect you, like me have seen several visual aids to try to explain the Trinity. A shamrock, a pretzel, a plait, weaving scarves together or bookmarks or making old fashioned paperchains, all trying to explain the unexplainable, at least in this life time.

The concept of the Trinity is explored in the Bible but the word is not used. For me it is a concept of love that is reciprocal, circular but also inclusive. Inclusive in the way that the famous icon is, a unified scene but with empty places waiting for us to join in.

The nature of God, is beyond our understanding, however hard we wrestle with theology and go deeper into our faith. Even though God can make himself known to us, speak to us and make his will known, who and what God is is beyond us.

The poetry of this part of Proverbs that we have heard today gives us some idea of the collective nature of God. In this passage Wisdom becomes

personified, feminine, not just an intellectual knowledge, a way of living successfully or relating well to others. God is the source of all Wisdom, Wisdom was present at the creation of the world, but Wisdom was created first and shared the Creator's joy in his creation. There is a closeness here, being beside God, loving, seeing, sharing, being a part of.

Paul brings us to finding our place beside God through the justification that we received, by grace, through Jesus, so that the Holy Spirit can pour into our hearts the love that God has for us. As we have the Holy Spirit within us we can share God's love for his creation, we can feel his joy in what he has made. Whatever we have to go through in this life, we will have God in us, beside us, around us through the grace of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. God's life-giving power can transform our attitude to all that we may have to face in this world.

It is in the Gospel reading from John that the Trinity is spelt out most clearly today. The close relationship between the Father, the Son and

the Holy Spirit. The fact that each will glorify each other, delighting in each other, closely resembling each other. And our position in that grouping is clear.

We belong to the Father, who has given us to Jesus and through the Spirit we will meet them and know them; the Spirit will help us, in our limited way, to understand how we are loved. The Spirit will speak to us of the Father's love for us. The three hold us as beloved children, children who will not understand everything but will be helped to grow in wisdom and joy. There will be much that is too difficult to understand, even that depth of love sometimes feels beyond us, but we can grasp some of it.

Jesus talks of us coming to him as a little child, perhaps one aspect of that statement is the child-like joy in nature, in simple activities, in creating. The picture brought home with pride, the blocks standing high, the splashing in a puddle. Sometimes perhaps we need to rediscover joy, amongst the busyness of daily

life. Sometimes perhaps we need to stop and stare, to smell the roses.

The Trinity invite us into that circle of love, to feel the joy and peace they have, and to communicate on that deep level. This is a time not to intellectualise but to let our imaginations roam free, to enter the light and love of three bound intimately together, but with room to spare for each one of us to be welcomed in. A group that is not bound by time or place, that was there at the creation of the world and will be forever. The disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we can receive that gift at any time when we choose to let him in, to bring us to truth, to help us to glorify the Son and the Father