**TRINITY SUNDAY SERMON**

**JUNE 12, 2022**

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

It is said that praying is when we talk to God, but meditation is when we listen. Just in passing, I notice that it is much harder to listen than to talk. Perhaps the listeners are the wise ones, and the watchers, and the ones who pay attention, because they can learn so much. And if they’re really smart, they can apply what they have observed, and avoid mistakes. Some years ago, my then seven year old daughter came home from school one day and said that her class had been taught how to meditate that morning. And then she said something profound - that just because a thing is simple, that doesn’t make it easy. Talk about the mouths of babes and sucklings!

Today we celebrate the Holy Trinity, that most mysterious of concepts. We Christians are monotheists, there is ONLY one God. That’s all. We worship God the Creator, God the founder of the universe, God who made everything and everyone.

Our Jewish friends laugh at us and call us polytheists, they say that we worship three separate deities, God the Father, Jesus who is God the Son and the Holy Spirit who is likewise God. So how can three separate seeming beings all be part of one God?

When you pray, who do you talk to? God, the Heavenly Father? An awful lot of prayers open with that greeting. But God is, to me such a huge, unfathomable being, the One who made all things, who separated light from darkness and called them day and night, Who made the billions of stars in our galaxy and the billions upon billions of galaxies in the universe, the fountain of creative love who pays attention to so many trillions and trillions of things and ensouled beings that I feel small and unimportant, even though I know God sees every sparrow that falls, yet still he seems to me to be so mighty and just plain big beyond my ability to understand - God the Father seems kind of distant, because he must be so busy. And working in mysterious ways his wonders to perform.

Put your hand up if you find Jesus easier to relate to. Jesus, our Prince of Peace, our Emanuel, our mighty counsellor, the one who lived in a human body two thousand years ago, and ate food and drank wine, and wept, and went to banquets, and calmed the waves and brought people back to life, and who called the centurion’s daughter ‘darling’ when he brought her back to life, and fed the five thousand, healed so many people, who was nice to women, and incidentally brought us eternal life, this Jesus with the practical, and very human touch, well, who wouldn’t find him easy to talk to? Soldiers in foxholes, and people in airplanes diving down to crash, they are talking to Jesus.

And then there’s the Holy Spirit, that John called the Spirit of truth, “When the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth”, and that’s who we need most to listen to.

You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. Our comforter and advocate, the still small voice in our hearts that we try to listen to. Not the busy little voice in the back of our brains, - what little voice? I don’t hear any little voice - that little voice.

So, people ask, how can this be, if Jesus came well after God, and is the Son of God, and if the Spirit was sent after Jesus in his human body ascended into heaven, are not both Jesus and the Spirit younger than, and lesser than God? I am sorry to say that theology mostly gives me a headache, and I shrink from studying it, but the answer is no: they are all three one Being, equal aspects of God. If you want a comparison, think of water, H2O, in three forms: there’s ice, the solid form, there’s water in liquid state and there’s steam, the gaseous state. And yet all three conditions still consist of the same molecule: hydrogen dioxide. Or three faces of a triangle: the triangle is one thing, but with three different facets.

Or, we most of us are seen differently by different people: spouses, parents, children, neighbours, friends, co-workers, fellow game-players and club members. We might behave differently in different contexts, but at the end of the day, there is only one person living inside each skull. And so it is with God, there is only one God, but we his people see God in different contexts and from different points of view.

Not easy perhaps, but simple.

Last week, Pentecost, we saw the Spirit begin to take action, moving from Peter and the small group of those to whom the message of eternal life was revealed by Jesus resurrected, to the broader outside world. A world where we happen to live, a world where we are so very lucky, and blessed, to receive the message of divine love from God, brought to us by the Holy Spirit. This week we think of the whole of the Trinity: it took all three aspects of God to give us the message, the good news, of eternal life.

And let us remember that though Jesus in his human body is temporarily absent from us, yet nevertheless, he and God the father are with us, at all times and in all places, in the form of the Holy Spirit. How cool is that?

Amen.