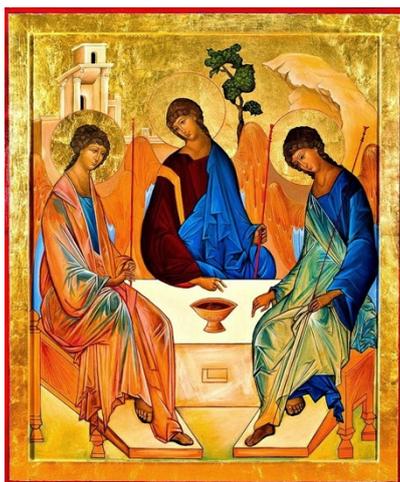


**'Staying Connected'**  
**Worship Resources for week beginning**  
**7<sup>th</sup> June**  
**TRINITY SUNDAY**

**PREPARATION**

Lord, as we come to join you today, help us to prepare ourselves in a moment of meditation, as we listen to or read the Trinity Song.

<https://youtu.be/BVKh3pIVFNU>



Father in my life I see  
You are God who walks with me  
You hold my life in your hands  
Close beside you I will stand  
I give all my life to you  
Help me Father to be true

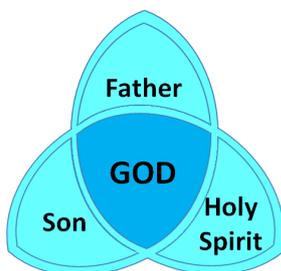
Jesus in my life I see  
You are God who walks with me  
You hold my life in your hands  
Close beside you I will stand  
I give all my life to you  
Help me Jesus to be true

Spirit in my life I see  
You are God who walks with me  
You hold my life in your hands  
Close beside you I will stand  
I give all my life to you  
Help me Spirit to be true

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are not just once in a while friends – we are the family of God  
We are not just a cosy club – We are the body of Christ  
We are not just strangers when we meet – we are temples of the Spirit  
We are not here to worship by accident – Father God has called us  
We are not just passing time - Jesus wants us to know him better  
We are not just doing the same old thing – the Holy Spirit has some special words for us.

Almighty and everlasting God, we are here before you. Grant us a glimpse of your awesome presence, and help us to worship you with reverent praise. Father God, we are here before you. Grant us a sense of your everlasting arms encircling us, and help us to trust always in your loving purpose. Lord Jesus Christ, we are here before you. Grant us grace to hear your call, and help us to follow in your footsteps, wherever that may lead. Holy Spirit, we are here before you. Grant us openness of heart, mind and spirit, and help us to know your peace and power. Father, Son and Holy Spirit we are here before you. Grant that we may know you better, and help us to live and work for you, this day and always. **Amen.**



## READING

**When Jesus was baptized, all three persons of God were heard or seen on earth together. Jesus standing in the water, the Spirit coming down as a dove and the voice of God saying, “You are my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased.”**

### **Matthew 3: 13 – 17. [From The Message]**

Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, “I’m the one who needs to be baptized, not *you!*”

But Jesus insisted. “Do it. God’s work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism.” So John did it.

The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God’s Spirit - it looked like a dove - descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life.”

## REFLECTION

### **What did it mean to John the Baptist?**

It still doesn’t seem right, even after all this time; me baptizing Jesus! I tried to stop him, couldn’t believe my eyes when he came down into the water. I actually thought for a moment that he was going to baptize me. But then I looked into those quiet eyes of his, and I knew he meant it, he wanted me to do the honours. Even then I tried to change his mind, ‘You can’t be serious,’ I said to him. But he was. Amazing!

Well, what could I do? I could hardly refuse, even though it seemed so out of place. I wasn’t worthy even to tie up his laces, that’s the way I saw it. I’d spent my whole ministry looking forward to his coming, never pointing to myself but always to him. To help to prepare his way was all that I asked, all I expected, all I wanted. And I’d have been happy just to have seen him, to have been assured I’d done my bit.

But he thought differently, so I did as he asked, trembling with anxiety, overcome with emotion, stunned at the privilege. I, John, baptized him! It meant a lot to Jesus, that was obvious – his face was glowing, radiant with delight, almost as though he could hear God speaking.

But what people seem to forget is that it was memorable for me too. A day I shall always treasure, a day I shall never forget. The most special day of my life



## HYMN

### **Singing the Faith 6**

### **Father we love you**

Father we love you  
We worship and adore you  
Glorify your name in all the world.  
Glorify your name,  
Glorify your name,  
Glorify your name in all the world.

Jesus we love you  
We worship and adore you  
Glorify your name in all the world.  
Glorify your name,  
Glorify your name,  
Glorify your name in all the world.

Spirit we love you  
We worship and adore you  
Glorify your name in all the world.  
Glorify your name,  
Glorify your name,  
Glorify your name in all the world.

<https://youtu.be/-6Q1WZN99oo>

[The above link offers the opportunity to sing along, or to quietly reflect on our hymn]

## **MEDITATION**

### **If you had been there**

Imagine.....you are part of the crowd sitting listening to John. You've heard him a number of times before. John has been telling you, "He's coming! He's more powerful than me! He will give you God's wind and God's fire, not just water. He'll sort everything out. He'll clear out the mess. He'll clean up God's farm so that only the good wheat is left!"

How are you reacting to this message? What manner of person are you expecting to appear?

*[Pause for a while and imagine]*

Were you expecting a great leader sweeping onto the scene with pomp and ceremony? Instead, you get Jesus. Coming and standing humbly before John. Asking John to baptize him. A Jesus who seems to be identifying himself, not with a God who sweeps all before him in judgement, but with the people themselves, facing that judgement and needing to repent.

How are you feeling now? Are you being called to reconsider your understanding of your faith?

*[Pause for a while and imagine]*

Then, as the baptism of Jesus takes place, strange things start to happen. Jesus rises from the water with a radiant expression on his face. A dove hovers over him and a voice, as if from nowhere, proclaims him as the son "...chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life." Imagine being there, seeing what Christ saw and hearing what Christ and others heard.

What is happening? What is the effect of this moment on you?

*[Pause for a while and imagine]*

And then, what is the effect of the baptism of Jesus in our lives today? In this moment, the Father, Son and the Spirit are pouring love and joy and adoration into the other members of the Trinity, each one serving the other. They are infinitely seeking one another's glory, and so God is infinitely happy. This unity of the three sets us the example of how our unity of love can enable us to speak to others of God's love for all.

**As C.S. Lewis says 'it matters more than anything else in the world – the whole Trinitarian love relationship, joy relationship, happiness from serving, giving and loving each other unselfishly is to be played out in each one of us and all of us together.'**

**We are made to be, together**, the image of Father, Son and Spirit in their love for one another. This is what Jesus chose to talk about on the night before he died. He wanted his disciples to know that he was completely united with the Father God he'd taught them about. And he wanted them to know about the Holy Spirit, who was completely one with him and with the Father as well. Father, Son and Spirit. Three, yet completely united as One.

Why was it so important to Jesus that his disciples should understand that this is what God is like?

**We're made to depend on one another.** We often think doing things on our own is a sign of strength. But Jesus tells us that apart from the Father he is nothing. He tells us we can't understand him without the Spirit, and we can't understand the Spirit without him. He tells us that the Father has trusted him with everything. It is the most amazing picture of each person completely open to and dependant on the other. In the glimpse Jesus gives us into the family life of God, the thing that makes you strong is being completely dependent on one another!

**We're made to celebrate and love each other's differences.** Father, Son and Spirit are all very different from each other – but they are one because they love each other completely. If we are to be a picture of God, we need to learn how to enjoy and celebrate our differences.

**We're invited into the love of the Trinity.** This is the most amazing truth of all. We weren't just made to be one with each other. We're made to be one with the Trinity God himself. The Trinity isn't a private party- Jesus says: 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them' (John 14:23). The Trinity is the family of which we were all made to be a part.

A certain minister tells the joke of the customer enjoying a coffee outside a road-side café and watching two workmen toiling away on the nearby grass verge . One dug a sizeable hole, perspiration dripping from his forehead, followed almost immediately by his mate who promptly filled in the hole before moving on to the next position where the same process took place. Curiosity overcame the café customer who enquired as to what they were up to. “Oh” replied the perspiring workman “our mate who plants the trees couldn’t be here today, so we’re just doing what we always do” **Without all three elements to our faith do we lack the power to make a difference?**

### TRINITY PRAISE

Let us use the words of Charles Wesley’s great hymn to the Trinity [Singing the Faith 9]

1 Hail! Holy, holy, holy Lord!  
whom One in Three we know;  
by all thy heavenly host adored,  
by all thy Church below.

3 Thee, holy Father, we confess,  
thee, holy Son, adore,  
thee, Spir’t of truth and holiness,  
we worship evermore.

2 One undivided Trinity  
with triumph we proclaim;  
thy universe is full of thee,  
and speaks thy glorious name.

4 Three Persons equally divine  
we magnify and love;  
and both the choirs ere long shall join  
to sing thy praise above:

5 Hail! Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
our heavenly song shall be,  
supreme, essential One, adored  
in co-eternal Three.

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*



<https://youtu.be/eK6s3W8rNeo>

**[The above link offers the opportunity to sing along, or to quietly reflect on our hymn]**

### PRAYERS

Father God, you who gave your people manna in the wilderness, spiritual food for physical needs, we pray that you feed those who still want for the basic requirements for daily life due, in many respects, to the selfish use by the rich of the bounty you provided this world. Make us sensitive to the ways we might work for the more equitable sharing of that bounty and protection of the environment.

*[Here, add your own prayers]*

Christ Jesus, you who fed the people with loaves and fishes, satisfied their needs simply, we pray that you feed the hungry in the world today. You have provided food for the whole world providing it is shared fairly and that the land and seas are not depleted by unsustainable farming methods.

*[Here, add your own prayers]*

Holy Spirit, power from on high, sent to loosen prisoner's chains, to set the oppressed and tortured free, we pray, that you empower us to work towards the removal of tyranny and injustice which inhabits much of our world. Give us a spirit of concern for all those suffer at the hands of misused power.

*[Here, add your own prayers]*

Father, Son and Spirit, our amazing God of the mundane and the miraculous, we praise you that you are visible and active in meeting the needs of our world today, and grant us peace and freedom as we seek to do your will in our place and time. We pray particularly at this time for all the suffering which has been caused by the global pandemic – the loss of loved ones, the heavy burden on those ministering to the sick; the loss of livelihoods and for the lonely – only your united and uniting spirit can lift our hearts and we thank you for that.

*[Here, add your own prayers]*

### **THE MESSAGE**

Jesus, appearing to the disciples after his resurrection said to them:

“God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”

***MATTHEW 28: 19 [THE MESSAGE]***

### **BLESSING**

And so, as we go forth and take out this message, however, whenever and wherever we can,

God the Father watch over us –*hands reaching up high above the body*

God the Son walk with us - *hands reaching out wide either side of the body*

God the Spirit work through us - *hands crossed over the body*

Until we meet again – *hands held out before you*

Amen.