

Trinity Sunday
30-05-2021
St Cuthbert's Anglican Church – Tweed Heads

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| Isaiah 6: 1-8 | Isaiah's Commission – Burning coals on his lips Here am I. Send Me! |
| Psalms 29 | The Lord has power over all the Earth And will bring his people to peace |
| Romans 8:12-17 | The Spirit testifies we are God's Children And as such, heirs of God. |
| John 3: 1-17 | Nicodemus visits Jesus at night <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus says he needs to be born again• God gives eternal life to those who believe. |

Introduction

Today, in our Church calendar, we have Trinity Sunday, a day set aside to acknowledge that we know and worship one God, and that we know that one God in three persons, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in perfect relationship with one another.

And just as God exists as a relationship of perfect unity, God calls us into relationship, not only with God, but also with one another.

“The Trinity” is a doctrine of the Church that explains how we experience God in the best way we can, whilst acknowledging that we can't, in this world at least, know all there is to know about God.

Christians believe though, that we have been given enough information about the God who created us, so that we can know and accept by faith, that in Jesus we can come into a right relationship with God. And as we accept God in faith, we are called to live into our relationship with God, and with one another, being strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit.

Today I would like to look at our readings from scripture, and how they call us into relationship with the Trinity.

Created to live in relationship with God

Firstly, and especially in our readings from the Old Testament we are drawn to the enormity of God. The God we believe in as Christians is the God who is the Creator of everything. As we listen to the words of Psalm 29, we hear that

this is the God to whom all glory is to be given. In the reading from the Prophet Isaiah we hear these words:-

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

From this we are reminded that God is the Creator and we are the created. The world doesn’t revolve around us, but rather this world that we live in depends on God. And as the pinnacle of God’s creation on earth, we are made to live in a relationship with God.

We live in a very consumer driven society. In this there is the assumption that we are our own highest good, and the way to live is that we get things or experiences for our own benefit. The Christian faith really turns this way of thinking on its head. God is the Creator, and we as created beings, are called to submit to God. The strange thing is though, that once we submit to God and realize that it’s not all about us, then we can truly know the freedom and peace that we are meant to live in. We can only know what it means to be truly human when we live in relationship with the God who created us.

Coming into the Relationship

Let us continue with how we come into the relationship that God wants to have with us. In the last verse in today’s reading from John’s Gospel, Jesus says these words:-

¹⁷ ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

So, we come into relationship with God, by accepting what Jesus has done for us. In his life, to teach us how to live, in his death to assure us that we are forgiven, and in his resurrection to give us hope no matter what challenges we face, we can know we are secure in a relationship with God.

Christians believe that there is more to this world than just the physical. When Jesus is talking to Nicodemus at the beginning of today’s gospel reading he says these words:-

‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’

Although we have been created by God, we are not automatically in a right relationship with God. We need to come and submit to God in Jesus. As the reading continues we hear Jesus say:-

‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.”

So, we know that in Jesus we can have a relationship with the God who is beyond just the physical. There is a spiritual dimension to our lives. And as we come into relationship with God through Jesus, we can know the Peace of God which passes all understanding. No challenge is beyond us. Even death is not the end for those who put their trust in Jesus.

Water is the symbol of life and baptism with water is the way by which we mark our acceptance of Jesus and new life with God.

Accepting Jesus is the way to God, and as we accept Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to live within us.

Living in the Relationship

So, we know that we are created to live in relationship with the God who created us, and we know we come into that relationship by accepting Jesus, but it is a relationship, and like all relationships that we have to live into it. And once God brings us into this relationship, God doesn’t just leave us alone to work it out ourselves. As we heard last week at Pentecost, all who accept Jesus are given the Holy Spirit within them.

We all know that living in a relationship with other people takes time and energy. There are ups and downs, good times and challenges. Sometimes human relationships break and cannot be fixed. But we know from the bible that God never walks away from a relationship with us. We might walk away, but God never does. The Holy Spirit lives within us to guide, to help, and to strengthen us.

In the reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans today we are reminded that all who are lead by the Spirit of God are children of God. (Romans 8:14)

So as Christians we are called to live by the Spirit, knowing that we are Heirs of God. It doesn’t mean that life will be exactly the way we want it to be, in fact in the reading from Romans today we hear that it means we might suffer. But ultimately, we know we are secure in God’s love.

And living in the Spirit we are called to show the love God has for us to others. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul reminds us what this should look like:-

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

The great challenge before us if we have accepted Jesus, is are we allowing the Holy Spirit to be at work within our lives for the fruit of the Spirit to show.

Conclusion

As Christians we know God as the “Creator”, who has made us to live in relationship with God, the “Redeemer”, who has provided the means by which we can have a right relationship with God, and the “Sanctifier” who guides and helps us in our relationship with God and others.

In this we see God models perfect relationship for us.

We are in turn called to accept Jesus so we can live in relationship with God. We are called to allow the Holy Spirit to produce fruit in our lives.

I pray that as we grow deeper and deeper into our relationship with God, God will mightily use us to produce God’s fruit. Amen.