



COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
SUNDAY 15 JUNE 2025 – Trinity Sunday

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm 8

1 *O Lord our governor,* ♦
how glorious is your name in all the world!
2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised ♦
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes, ♦
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.
4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, ♦
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
5 What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them; ♦
mere human beings, that you should seek them out?
6 You have made them little lower than the angels ♦
and crown them with glory and honour.
7 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands ♦
and put all things under their feet,
8 All sheep and oxen, ♦
even the wild beasts of the field,
9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea ♦
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.
10 *O Lord our governor,* ♦
how glorious is your name in all the world!

A reading from the letter to the Romans, chapter 5, verses 1-5.

Romans 5.1-5

Results of Justification

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At Morning Prayer, the Gospel is simply the second reading, people sit to hear it and is introduced in the same way as the first:

The second reading is from John, chapter 16, verses 12-15.

and then at the end:

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

For Eucharists/ Communion people stand to hear the Gospel. Everywhere except Fitz introduces it with an Acclamation (the blue bit), and then we all use the introduction and ending (the green bit):

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John, chapter 16, verses 12-15.

Glory to you, O Lord

And then at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

John 16.12-15

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

A Reflection from Hannah

This week saw the first of the Archdeacon's Visitations. These are annual services in which churchwardens are sworn in. I went along to the first one, with some of our wardens and we all met the new Archdeacon- Nick Watson. Churchwardens have a heavy role within our communities- they carry legal responsibilities and share in the ministry of the parish, representing the people to the priest, and supporting the work of mission. It's a big job, and we are so grateful to them for being willing to go another round for 2025!

Anyway, during Archdeacon Nick's sermon we learned that our area currently has 35% of the parishes in vacancy. So, a third of our neighbouring communities are without a vicar. That's a lot. And it was really refreshing to hear spoken out loud, that which many of us had suspected for some time. We are very s...t...r...e...t...c...h...e...d. But, honesty about the current situation brought us closer to optimism, not further from it. Every seemingly insurmountable challenge is an opportunity to depend more on God, to recognise our own frailty and limitations, and (instead of strategising and problem-solving) to pray... to pray to one who is in very essence a relationship of love, for relationships of love here, in our lives, to grow.

Truth and hope. Two things our readings affirm, and which are fundamental to our faith and wellbeing. When we hear them, when we embrace them, it's like a breath of fresh air that cuts through the spin and the well-meant but pointless attempts to reframe the situation. So when Archdeacon Nick spoke the truth, but took that truth to a place of hope and trust in God who is bigger than our understanding and the reach of our capabilities and said, essentially, 'do not worry', we see the Gospel lived out.

And, this Trinity Sunday, that is the nub of it. We are not alone- God lives in us, and God's own person is a dynamic relationship of live giving, invitational love, whose will for us all is life and flourishing. Sometimes though, it takes a dose of adversity to see it for what it is- which is perhaps where St Paul is coming from when he says 'suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.'

If we instead choose to deny the truth and pretend that struggles are not real, then we risk losing out on the riches of God's grace. Which brings me to the Creed... that great quest for truth- hard-won and precious. This Trinity Sunday we are encouraged to recall with thanks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea (325AD)- the meeting that gave rise to the Nicene Creed (which we say in our Eucharist services)- a statement of belief in the triune God whom we worship- in whom there is truth and hope.