

LAIRG CHURCH OF SCOTLAND & ROGART (ST CALLANS) CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
SCO20871 and SCO10035

Sunday 7th June 2020

Trinity Sunday

OPENING PRAYER

Wherever we gather, we gather in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. All-encompassing God, open us to your presence this day we pray.

Great Creator God, as we worship you today our hearts are filled with awe:
we see your glory in the night sky, the moon and stars shining on, century after century,
we see your glory in the land at our feet, beauty and abundance to sustain life,
we see your glory in all people, humankind all made in your image,
we worship you.

Jesus Christ our Redeemer, as we worship you today our hearts are filled with praise:
you are the timeless Word of God, through whom all things were created,
you are the incarnate Word of God, demonstrating life in all its fullness,
you are the eternal Word of God, present with us now and to the end of the age,
we worship you.

Holy Spirit, Energy of God, as we worship you today our hearts are filled with wonder:
we feel you sweeping across the earth now, as you swept over the waters at creation
we feel you stirring your church now, as you first stirred the church at Pentecost,
we feel you connecting your worldwide family now, as we are joined with one another, we worship you.

Gracious God, One-in-Three and Three-in-One, accept our worship, our praise and our wonder.

Reveal again to us your great glory through your Living Word, as we are transformed by your tireless Spirit. We worship you. Amen

READINGS

Genesis 1:1-2, 4a - Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters...⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 - Final Greetings and Benediction

¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of[the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Matthew 28:16-20 - The Commissioning of the Disciples

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Reflection

These days it seems that we can find the answer to almost any question we care to think of on the internet. Put it into good old 'Google' and up will come the answer. However, that is not the case with The Trinity! Even good old Google can't come up with any very satisfactory answers. I wonder why? Well, no matter how hard we try, we will never fully understand and therefore be able to document this deep mystery. And although we can't even begin to get hold of or grasp the fullness of the Trinity, our faith helps us in some small way to experience its power and presence in our lives. The Trinity is part of our Christian faith and tradition. It cannot be understood with the head, but it is a reality that we are called to experience and believe in through our prayer and our heart.

When we use the word '*mystery*' to talk about the Trinity, we are not talking about a puzzle or a riddle, or anything like a murder mystery that is to be solved. The Trinity is a mystery that is so deep and meaningful that its riches can never be exhausted. The Trinity is the unique relationship of creative love that exists between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Through the gift and grace of our baptism we are personally invited to be part of this dynamic and life-giving union.

In moments of prayer and Christian living, we experience the love of the Trinity and it transforms us. This is a free gift that always comes from God, that is always available. It is made real and visible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we are encouraged and strengthened to live our lives as followers of Jesus.

We are made in the image, a likeness of a triune God who isn't remote or distant, but a God who became flesh and now lives amongst us. We are created in the image of God the Father who creates us, of Jesus the Son who saves us and the Holy Spirit who continues to strengthen us. As we celebrate this wonderful mystery which is the Trinity, we pray that each of us will continue to be blest ***in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

Prayers of intercession

We offer our prayers for others to the God who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, already present in every place, already bringing good out of every evil, already holding in love every person:

We hold in our prayers those who feel overwhelmed by chaos and uncertainty at this time...

Lord, give calm.

We hold in our prayers those who walk in the valley of the shadow of death...

Lord, give light.

We hold in our prayers those who are oppressed by violence and war...

Lord, give peace.

We hold in our prayers those who seek to lead our communities, our nations and our world...

Lord, give wisdom.

We hold in our prayers those who find it hard to believe, who struggle with doubt...

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Lord, give courage and faith.
We hold in our prayers those with whom we try to share the Good News of your love...
Lord, give grace.
We rejoice in your promise to be with us always, to the end of the age, as we commend all those for whom we pray into the care of our Three-in-One God.
Amen.

Praise with joy the world's creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human
knowledge,
Force of goodness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the
hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -
Foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
One God in Community,
Calling us to leave behind
Faith's ghettos and obscurity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.

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Blessing

Creator, Jesus, Holy Spirit
Star-maker, Storyteller, Breath of Life
The Three in one and One in Three
Bless us and keep us. Encircle us with your love AMEN