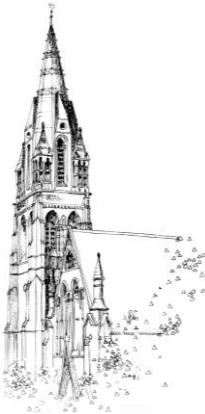


MAYFIELD SALISBURY PARISH CHURCH
EDINBURGH

Online Worship Material Available 8.00am Every Sunday

Sunday 7 June 2020

TRINITY SUNDAY



The true knowledge and vision of God consists in this: in seeing that God is invisible, because what we see lies beyond all knowledge, being wholly separated by the darkness of incomprehensibility....

The closer one approaches the vision of God, the more one recognises the invisible character of the divine nature.

Gregory of Nyssa
(335 – 394)



www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

AS A DIVERSE PEOPLE, THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP ALMIGHTY GOD

Welcome and Introduction

Revd Neil Gardner

[Click to listen](#)

Good morning, and welcome. If you've been sharing in these online services over the last few weeks, then my voice will be a new one to you. My name is Neil Gardner, I'm the Interim Moderator here at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church and I'm glad to be sharing in this act of worship for Trinity Sunday. Let's begin as is the usual custom at Mayfield Salisbury, with a moment of quiet to prepare ourselves, our hearts, our minds, our spirits for this time of worship together.



Apostle Paul by Rembrandt (1606–1669)

It is in his letter to the Ephesians that St Paul reminds us: Through Christ we have access to the Father in the one Spirit. Thus encouraged, let us pray:

Loving God, look upon us as we gather together yet apart, and wherever we are grant us a sense of your presence, your purpose, your peace. Just as at Pentecost we recalled how the Holy Spirit came to them and filled the house where they were sitting, come to us we pray and unite us by that same Spirit. Forgive us too the times we fall short of the standard you have set us in the life and teaching and the death and rising of your Son Jesus Christ, the times when by the things we think and say and do, or neglect to think and say and do, we let you down, and each other and even ourselves. Lift us up by your loving kindness, we pray, and have mercy upon us; lift us up and lead us on to follow more closely in the footsteps of Jesus, and in the assurance this Trinity Sunday that ‘through Christ we have access to the Father in the one Spirit.’

*Almighty and eternal God,
through your Word and Spirit you created all things.
In Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
you reveal your salvation in all the world.
Through your Holy Spirit,
you give us a share
in your life and love.
Keep us firm in this faith,
and fill us with the vision of your glory,
that we may serve and praise you all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Children's Reflection *Hillary Leslie*

[Click to listen](#)

Good morning everyone! How are you doing? It's nice to be back with you this week. Today is a special day in the Christian calendar called 'Trinity Sunday' – I wonder if we can figure out together what the word 'trinity' means to us.

The word 'trinity' in the English language, comes from the Latin word 'trinitas' meaning 'the number three.' Can anyone think of what shape has to do with the number three? Is it a circle? Is it a square? Is it a rectangle? What about a triangle? It's a triangle – it has three corners, or angles, which make up its three sides. A triangle can help us understand what the word 'trinity' means in our faith.

I've always had a fascination with Celtic knots, and have quite a few pieces of jewellery, including my wedding ring, which incorporate these beautiful woven lines. My favourite Celtic knot is called the Trinity Knot, which is also called the 'Triquetra,' another word which comes from Latin meaning 'three-cornered.' And guess what its shape is? You're exactly right – it's also shaped like a triangle.

The triquetra has a long history in various cultures. One of the most well-known places it can be found is in The Book of Kells, which is a beautiful illustrated manuscript of the four Gospel stories from The New Testament in the Bible; it can ironically be found at Trinity College in Dublin. Although the original meaning of the symbol is unknown, it has often been used to represent the Christian 'Trinity.'

The Trinity knot, like a triangle, has three corners connected by one line woven together. All three corners are equal, and together, they make the knot complete. If we were missing one of the corners, we couldn't complete the knot. Together, the three corners make one knot.



Some Celtic Trinity knots also have a circle, which symbolises the unity of all three parts. The Christian trinity is made up of three distinct parts which are of one nature and complete our God: The Father, or creator; Jesus, the son of God; and the Holy Spirit.

The creator gives us a glimpse of the power and mystery of God which is seen through all of the beautiful creation in the world. Jesus Christ, who lived among us in the flesh, taught us lessons from the life he lived about what it means to love God and neighbour. The Holy Spirit, which lives and moves inside each one of us, makes us aware of the presence of God which is never apart from us.

Each part of the Christian trinity is special and significant on its own, but together, they make a whole. It gives us a better understanding of the fullness, or bigger picture, of what God means to us in our faith. Just like our trinity knot needs three corners, we need all three parts of the Christian trinity to experience the fullness of God.

Maybe you'd like to learn how to draw your own Celtic Trinity knot! It's very tricky, but a lot of fun to learn. I will provide a link to a YouTube video which will give you step-by-step instructions. I'd love to see your drawings next week. <https://youtu.be/WNCdRwdfZI>

Let's close our eyes, put our hands together and close our time with a prayer – please repeat after me:

*Dear God, thank you for creating our world
Thank you for the long summer days
Thank you for Jesus teaching us how to live and love
Please be with those who are hurting or unwell today
May we feel your holy spirit move within us
And may we share your peace with others
Amen*

HYMN 111 **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!** [Click to listen](#)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
God ever living through eternity.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

WE LISTEN FOR THE SPIRIT OF GOD

First Reading **2 Corinthians 13: 11 - 13** [Click to read](#) [Click to listen](#)

Second Reading **St Matthew 28: 16 - 20** [Click to read](#) [Click to listen](#)

Readers: *Elizabeth Bomberg and Kay McIntosh DCS*

Reflection *Revd Neil Gardner* [Click to listen](#)

St Matthew 28:19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit.*

This year Trinity Sunday helpfully falls shortly before the church's annual commemoration of St Columba on 9th June. I say helpfully because it's a notoriously challenging Sunday on which to preach a

sermon, all the more so without the protective option of standing six feet above contradiction in an actual pulpit! God in three persons, blessed Trinity. But today it's blessed St Columba who comes to the rescue, to mine and probably to yours too, just as he did in a sense all those centuries ago when he came to the rescue from across the sea and founded a monastery that became the heart of the early Scottish church and established Iona as an enduring symbol of Christianity in Scotland and far beyond. *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Columba was a man of noble stock, and by right of birth he was fit to be chosen for the Kingship of his native Ireland. But he chose to serve a different sort of Kingdom and went on from his own monastic education to found a series of monasteries which brought new impetus and vigour to Irish Christianity dating back to the days of St Patrick himself. Columba means 'Dove', a symbol - appropriately enough a week after Pentecost - of the Holy Spirit, and it is clear that Columba need not have flown any further, for equally at home both in the noble houses and in the leading monasteries of his native



St Columba stained glass window in St Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh Castle.

Photo by Alan Findlay, Licence CC BY-SA 2.0



Iona Abbey Image by daisiem from Pixabay

land, he could have comfortably stayed put in whichever dovecot he chose. But in 565 or thereabouts Columba left Ireland with twelve companions and set sail for Iona. And there he remained, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits, until his death on 9th June 32 years later. From an account written a few centuries later, Columba emerges as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and abbot with a fearless commitment to the Gospel. *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Most of Columba's activity concerned the building of his monastery as a base for his missionary work, and the training of its members to carry out that same work. Work which continues to this day thanks not least to the Iona Community founded by George Macleod shortly before the Second World War. This time of year reflects a wartime anniversary too, D Day, when we recall how on 6th June 1944 Allied troops famously and fearlessly landed on the beaches of Normandy, bracing themselves, perhaps not unlike Columba so many centuries before, to encounter a fierce and uncompromising foe. The beaches of Iona, captured in so many paintings by Scottish Colourists over the years, are much more tranquil, but nonetheless proved the setting for a dramatic turning-point in the life of our nation. For when Columba and his associates bravely landed their coracles on the golden sands of Iona, they too faced a potentially hostile reception and resistance to the

Gospel they were bringing with them. In the event they were able to travel widely through the ancient Celtic Kingdom of Dalriada from the base they quickly established on Iona. In years to come Viking raiders and Norse settlers would challenge and threaten the monastery and its monks, but through many a day of darkness it remained the place of calm and stillness that it still is to this day. ‘Live in peace’, wrote St Paul in his concluding words to the Corinthians, ‘and the God of love and peace will be with you.’ Corinth was not naturally a peaceful place, but a busy, bustling melting-pot of a city where a multitude of competing ideas and philosophies, creeds and cultures vied with each other and threatened to distract and divide the early Christian communities struggling to establish themselves there. ‘Live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.’ Today’s Gospel reading reminds us of the concluding and equally reassuring words of Jesus himself. ‘And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’ The disciples must have wondered exactly what lay ahead and how on earth – literally - they would manage when Jesus had ascended to heaven. His promise to be with them always would help to focus their minds away from potential distractions and divisions as tentatively they set out to obey his commands.

It was George Macleod who described Iona as a ‘thin place’, a place where the gap between the physical world and the spiritual world, between earth and heaven, narrows to such an extent that they meet and merge. In a sense our online worship is about bridging just such a gap, bringing people of faith together whatever the distance between us; and not least on Trinity Sunday when Father, Son and Holy Spirit meet and merge and charge us like Columba before us to *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, said Jesus, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who filled the heart of Columba with the joy of the Holy Spirit and with deep love for those in his care: may your pilgrim people follow him, strong in faith, sustained by hope, and one in the love that binds us to you; 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. Amen.

RESPONSE TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706) [Click to listen](#)
For the Feast of the Holy Trinity: God the Father lives with us

Thanksgiving and Intercession

[Click to listen](#)

God of wisdom and love, giver of all good things, we thank you for your loving-kindness and your constant care over all creation. We bless you for the gift of life itself, for your guiding hand upon us, and your sustaining love within us. We thank you for friendship and duty, for good hopes and precious memories, for new ways of working and worshipping, for the joys that cheer us and the trials that teach us to trust in you.



The Holy Trinity by Andrei Rublev (c.1360 – c.1430)

We bless you for Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour, for the living presence of your Spirit, for your Church, the body of Christ in the world today and we pray for the work and witness of the church around the world and for all who are called to serve the Church as leaders, that through all its branches and denominations the church everywhere may continue to hold out the way of faith and hope and love amidst all the challenges and difficulties of these days. We pray for the Church of Scotland in all its variety from city-centre to country kirk, and we think especially at this time of the Abbey on Iona, and of every ancient place of pilgrimage. And we pray for Mayfield Salisbury, for its ministry team

and office-bearers and not least for the members of the Nominating Committee as they continue their work in new and unexpected ways.

We pray for The Queen and for all the Royal Family and Household. We pray for all those set under the Queen's authority in Parliament, both in London and in Edinburgh, that all those who walk in the corridors of power may fulfil their service for the welfare of the people and the glory of your name. We pray for the leaders of all nations, for all those on whose discussions and decisions the lives and livelihoods of so many depend. And we pray especially for those dealing with the impact of the coronavirus in this country and around the world, for those who have lost loved ones to it, for those suffering from it, and for all those whose responsibility it is to ensure treatment and protection.

We pray for the Forces of the Crown, and especially for those men and women currently serving in difficult and dangerous places and circumstances and for their families and friends watching and waiting so anxiously at home. We pray for people who continue to suffer from war and conflict, from violence and prejudice and we pray for peace not just in troubled nations but on troubled streets and in troubled homes and hearts. We pray for all who suffer in any way, those who are ill at home or in hospital, those who are lonely or anxious or afraid, those who are weary or worn or sad and for all who care for them and about them. We pray that each in their own way might know something of your presence.

Finally O God, we give thanks for those who have died in the faith, especially those known to us and dear to us who have entered into the joy of your nearer presence. Grant that we may follow their example in this life and so come to share with them the glory of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose words we pray together the family prayer of the Church.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN 112 God, whose almighty word

[Click to listen](#)

God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Saviour, who came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move o'er the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light.

*John Marriott (1780 - 1825)
Thomas Raffles (1788 - 1863)*

BENEDICTION

[Click to listen](#)

And now in the familiar words of the Gaelic Blessing: may the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back; may the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you this day, in all the days to come, and even for evermore. Amen.

INTIMATIONS

1. **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:** Genesis 18:1 – 15 and St Matthew 9:35 –10:8

2. **YOUTH UPDATES**

Virtual Youth Programming: The *virtual* youth schedule for the month of June can be accessed on the church website under the 'Young People' tab. Please note the time and age group changes for various activities. All youth programming will be held over Zoom. New virtual youth consent forms must be sent to Hillary before attending a session. For log-in access to the Zoom sessions, or to get a copy of the consent forms, please contact Hillary!

Youth Group: Tonight, Sunday 7 May will be a Zoom game night! P6 & P7 will meet from 630-730; we will start out finishing the Disney World escape room. S1-S6 will meet from 730-830; we will be playing Jackbox Games, so please make sure you have your mobile phone to join in online! Questions? Contact Hillary at hillary.mayfielddyouth@gmail.com

Young People Art Request!! Hillary is looking for some of our children and young people to create a piece of artwork using the word 'Amen!' - drawings, paintings...anything crafty encouraged! These will be used in our online service on 21 June. All artwork will be shared anonymously. By submitting your child's artwork, you consent to it being used on our website for our online service. Please email pictures of the art to Hillary at hillary.mayfielddyouth@gmail.com. Deadline is Wednesday 17 June at 5pm.

3. **CHRISTIAN AID DEBT JUBILEE PETITION** A huge thank-you to everyone who donated to the recent Christian Aid Week and Coronavirus appeals. Because of the way donations were collected this year, we won't know exactly how much money was contributed by our congregation, but we're sure members will have been as generous as ever. Many of you perhaps felt frustrated at being unable to support the charity in the usual way, so you may be interested to hear of another very worthwhile action you can take.

The coronavirus pandemic is spreading into the poorest countries in the world, where the most vulnerable are falling ill and the economic

impacts are leaving people who were already struggling, without a way to feed their families and survive this crisis.

You can help by supporting calls for a debt ‘jubilee’ – requested by governments of poor and vulnerable countries. This would mean cancelling their debt repayments during this crisis.

Will you call on the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, to broker a debt relief deal for the poorest countries? To take part, go to the Christian Aid website and follow the links to

www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/debt-jubilee-petition

Thank you! The Christian Aid Team

Forthcoming Deadlines

Order of service for next week: Thursday at 6.00pm.

Next Grapevine: **Friday 26 June at 6.00pm.**

Please send submissions to the Church Manager, William Mearns.

Phone: 0780 801 1234 or email: churchmanager@googlemail.com

Books for the Journey

My Sour-Sweet Days: George Herbert and the Journey of the Soul by Mark Oakley.

Luminaries: Twenty lives that illuminate the Christian Way by Rowan Williams.

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Ecotip: Count up how much plastic you have used this week

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