

Trinity

30 5 10

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love;
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three persons yet one God,
now and for ever.

My text today may be found at the end of Matthews's gospel: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' (28 v19)

Last week, we had the baptism of Helen Morgan's son, Michael, as part of our regular Sunday service. Baptism is firmly rooted in our Trinitarian belief in one God in three Persons, encapsulated in the declaration based on today's text: 'I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

The theme that has run through my sermons over the past couple of weeks has been the idea of Emmanuel - God with us. I have explored God with us in the Person of his Son Jesus Christ; I have considered God with us in the Person of his

Holy Spirit. Today, to conclude this mini series, I should like to look at the idea of God with us in the notion of the Trinity.

The great step forward in our understanding of God made by Judaism was the revelation that God was One God. Goodbye polytheism; hello monotheism. The great step forward made by Christianity was the revelation that God was one God but has made himself known to us in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Last week, we saw that the Holy Spirit is with us now, active in our lives, helping us to grow in faith, bestowing on us the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit.

Two weeks ago we saw that through the Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus Christ the Son of God is the door to our salvation, the light of God's grace in our lives, the living water who refreshes the desert of dry materialism.

Today, we can see through the passage read from Proverbs (8 1 - 4, 22 - 31) and our Psalm (8) that God the Father is Creator. He created the heavens and the earth and all that is therein. He created the sun, the moon, the stars; he created the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, the beasts of the field. He created human beings in his image and he is ever 'mindful' of us'. God the Father is God with us in the wonderful sense that every time we look around us and marvel at his created world, we can be conscious of the author of the universe, God our Father. Last Monday, the Queen was at the Chelsea Flower Show and there is a charming photo of her smelling a rose. In the wonder of the flower's perfection of form, its

colour and perfume, surely there is the true scent of holiness, God with us in the beauty of his creation?

As Christians, we believe that the God we worship, our God who is always with us, has revealed himself to be the One in Three – the Three in One. It is an extraordinary revelation which captures something of the complex mystery of what it means for God to be God. God who is totally beyond our comprehension makes us aware of him through the world, through the universe, in which we live. God who is totally beyond our comprehension makes himself known to us in the life of his Son Jesus Christ. God who is totally beyond our comprehension makes himself known through the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

So to think of God as Emmanuel can help us not to feel alone, lost in a dark world. God is mindful of us; he has not forgotten us nor abandoned us; he has called us by our name and we are his. But as ever the choice to respond to him is ours. We can choose to ignore him; we can choose to reject his love; we are free to go our own way. The great thing about Emmanuel is that he is there for us. But will we be there for him?

I have spoken in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

*Preached at the Eucharist
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H: Sermon 22: Trinity

