

Sunday 30th May 2021

Trinity Sunday



"Aspects of love"

Today's Gospel reading: John 3: 1-17

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John

Glory to you, O Lord

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, '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." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Today is Trinity Sunday, and comes with a health warning! It might better be called "God Sunday", because really it is all about our perception of God and the different ways in which God is with us in our lives and in the world.

Lots of adults tie themselves in knots on Trinity Sunday, trying to explain God, rather than simply celebrating God and the different ways in which (s)he loves us! They forget that the Holy Trinity is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to wonder at.

If you are in the cathedral on Trinity Sunday, or joining us online, you could listen out for how many times during the service you hear the words, "Father, Son and Holy Spirit".

This is one way in which we explain the doctrine of the Trinity (you might want to Google that, if you would like to know more) but Trinity refers to "three" of something. "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" is the traditional way in which we describe the different ways in which God is God. We hear, week by week, about God and Jesus and last week we heard about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to guide and help the followers of Jesus. What the Trinity does is to join all three together.

So our Heavenly Father is sometimes referred to as the first person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, God the Son, as the second, and the Holy Spirit as the third. Another way of expressing the Trinity describes the roles (as we see them) of the three: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Other words may also be used to describe the way in which we see God as creator of all that is, as our Redeemer or Saviour, and as sustaining us, advocating for us, comforting and helping us – all these different things.

What it all boils down to really is that we are trying to describe the indescribable!

There was an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical in the late 80's called "Aspects of Love" and I have yet to discover a better phrase to describe the different ways in which God creates, forgives and cares for us!

🤔 Some things to think about:

The story in our Gospel today describes how Nicodemus, himself a Jewish teacher, comes to Jesus under cover of night. Why do you think he had to be so secretive?

Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about the Holy Spirit – can you find the part where he likens the Holy Spirit to the wind? Think back to the story of Passover last week, when the disciples experienced the Spirit as wind. Can you remember another way in which the Holy Spirit appeared to them on that day?

There is a very special verse in our reading, which many Christians know by heart and which helps them. Perhaps you could learn it too?

Here it is: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” John 3:16

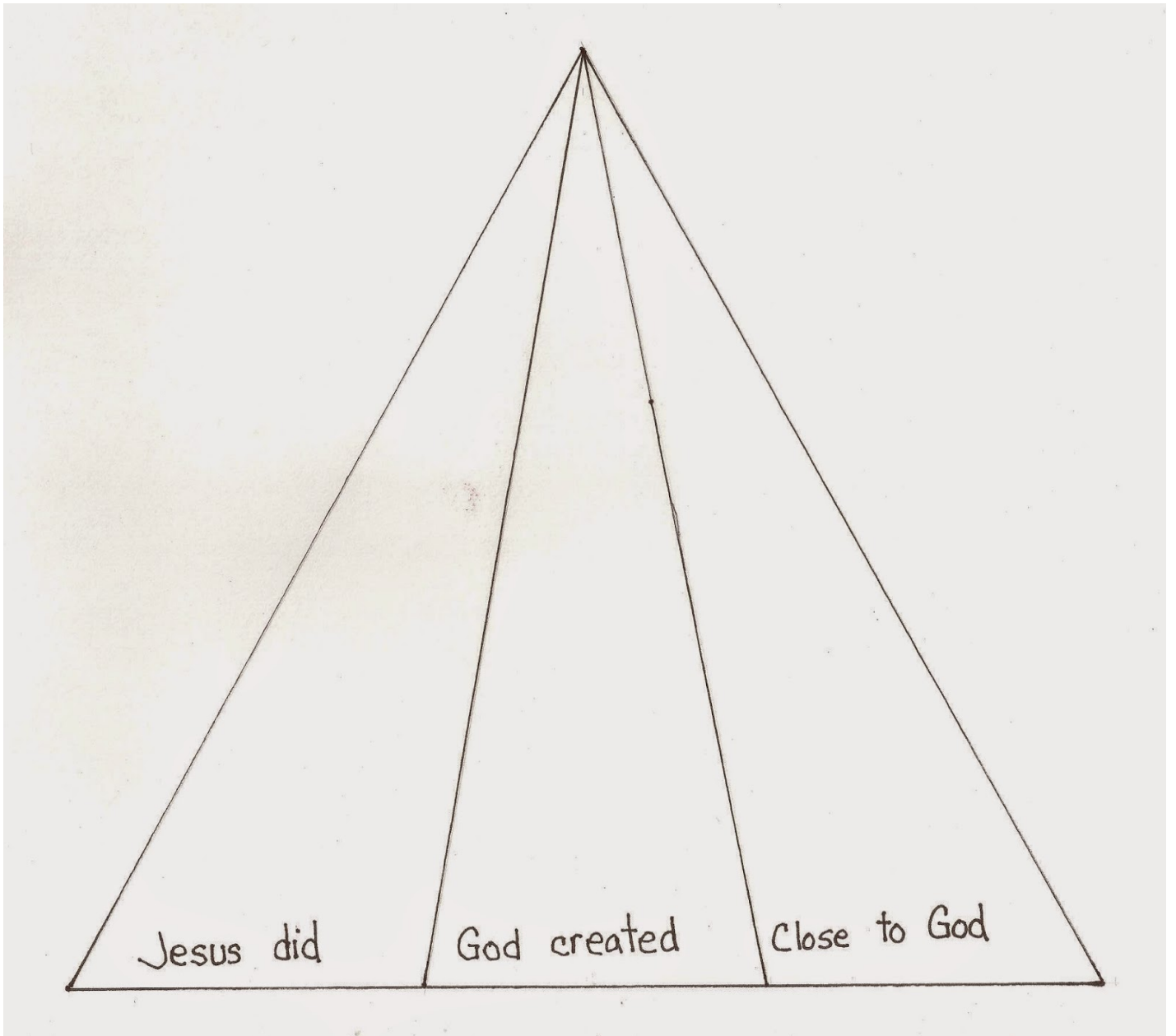
Today, we celebrate the God who is more than we can ever fully understand.

Remember that no-one knows everything there is to know about God. It is absolutely fine to wonder about God. In fact, it's very important that we *do* wonder! Why don't you wonder about God and write down your own “I wonders”!

Then, if you scroll down, you will find a Trinity colouring sheet, which you can either print or copy. The triangle has three sections. In the first section, can you write or draw something that Jesus did? In the second, can you describe or draw a favourite place in the world that God created? In the third section, can you describe, in words or pictures, a time when you felt very close to God? (We would say that, at times like this, we are filled with the Holy Spirit)

A prayer for this week:

🙏 Thank you God for loving us in different ways every day of our lives. Amen.



There are more puzzles and colouring pages below.

The Mystery of the Trinity

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you." John 16:13-15 (NIV)

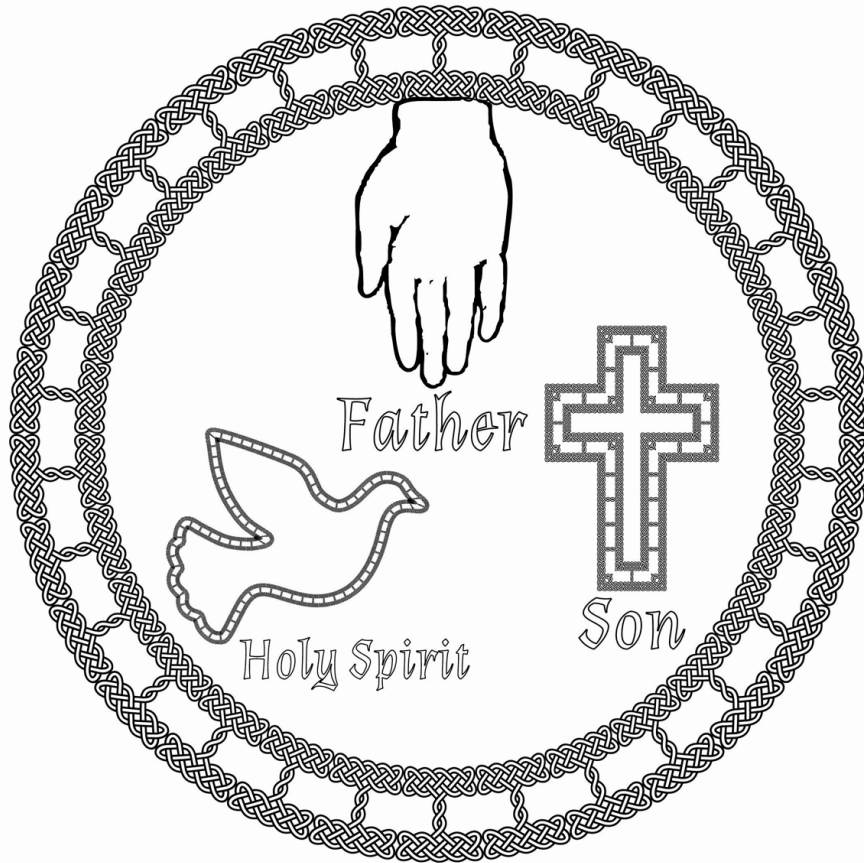
The puzzle is based on John 16:12-15



C C H U R Z M S P E A K E H A
T C E M J E C B F L Q K J E T
P O N G W V C T I U K I E A E
W M V L K C V E S P E W S R L
O E Q O Q B B Y I P R F L S L
Q S D R F E L M U V I F U T K
K H E I A L N T F S E R P J E
M W R F T O X R U G U H I K S
E C O Y H N T U C H T I A T X
R V Z G E G B T Q U A M A E E
Z O R V R S X H R L D C G G O
K M V E A W J T Z O K N O W N
N I W L N Q N T A J W F L U X
M N P U Y Q U Q F R L P A M O
T E C R X G E W C G U I D E P

TRUTH	FATHER	RECEIVE	KNOWN	GUIDE
MAKE	SPEAK	BELONGS	SPIRIT	MINE
GLORIFY	COMES	TRUTH	HEARS	TELL

Holy Trinity



In the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Janet Giessl



Jesus and Nicodemus

John 3