

Reflection & Newsletter St Mary's & St Augustine's:
Sunday 7th June - Trinity Sunday.

Sunday's Bible readings: *Psalm 8; Isaiah 40 : 12-17 & 27-end; 2 Corinthians 13 : 11-end*
Matthew 28 : 16-20

Wednesday's Bible readings: *Psalm 16 : 1, 6-end; 1 Kings 18 : 20-39 Matthew 5 : 17-19*

Reflection for Sunday

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the seemingly endless flow of distressing news from around the world. Emotions ranging from anger to despair to sorrow to fear as we witness the ongoing effects of the COVID 19 pandemic, murderous abuses of power, civil unrest and the seeming inability of governments to respond appropriately to all of this. Relationships on all levels seem to be broken – broken relationships between the individual and the state, between people and their governments between nations and between communities. Yet in the midst of all this brokenness are individuals and communities that come together, take a stand and speak out for justice, for truth and for the righting of wrongs.

Restoring broken relationships is the foundation of our faith and the heart of the good news we believe and are commissioned to proclaim.

Today is Trinity Sunday and relationship is the very essence of the Trinity. Creative, Life-giving, Dynamic Relationship . The Trinity is not a hierarchy of authority or a convenient role description for its constituent parts. Three-in-one, God in Trinity, is relationship, within God and flowing out to all creation.

Creative, Life-giving, Dynamic Relationship is (at) the heart of God and that same Creative, Life-giving, Dynamic relationship is the gift God offers to us and we in turn are called to share this to "all nations" (Matthew 28v.19) See also Jesus prayer in John 17 : 20-26.

Responding to the events in the USA during the week the Archbishops of York and Canterbury quoted Dr Martin Luther King Jnr. "In a real sense, we are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Therefore, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

A new and particular understanding of that "network of mutuality" has emerged over these last months in the light of the COVID 19; it has long been recognized as a key truth by environment scientists and activists; it is a Biblical understanding "if one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it ." (1 Cor 12 v.26 and again John 17 v.20-26)

The Bible Readings set for today call us to reflect on relationship and networks of mutuality across place and time. Both Old Testament readings are a call to praise "O Lord, our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth" (Ps 8) but also a call to lift eyes beyond current situations and take an eternal perspective "The Lord is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth". In the light of these truths, our strength through God, Three-in-One, is renewed and we are enabled to live as messengers (super-spreaders) of grace, love and fellowship/relationship (2 Corinthians 13v.14) - not just to one another but to "all nations".

We have new Home Acts of Worship Sheets for Sunday Morning - these have been sent out by post and email and are accessible on the website and Facebook. Let's continue to gather in our homes at 10.30am on Sunday and 7pm on Wednesdays to share worship together but separately – or at a time which suits you !

*Loving God,
we seek your presence
in the silence beyond words.
Looking to you for comfort,
strength, protection
and reassurance.
Breathing with gratitude
holding on to hope,
trusting with faith
that you are still God
in the midst of the turmoil,
we pray that your justice
and peace will be found
throughout the earth.*

We hold in prayer :
Rachel Morrison and her family on the sudden and unexpected death of Rachels mum.
Sia Kemoti awaiting an operation on her spine.
Eleanor, Jess and their parents.

Collect for this Sunday
Holy God, faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you.
Father Son and Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever.



Good Food for Sheffield Families – is the strapline for the Crowdfunding page St Mary's has set up in partnership with Aviva. Please take a look – there are short videos and text which explains how we are currently responding. Please also share this link with your links and spread the good news and the support.

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/good-food-for-sheffield-families?fbclid=IwAR3LhYAdygWUcSIFltEcd-vcrpZKeitbh81KjZWeF3r60XURyffVI8hms>

Thanks to all the 24-Hour Pentecost pray-ers: it was a great exercise; people talked to each other across our two churches, and we were joined by members Family Choir and friends who used to be part of our church now in Nairobi, Nottingham, Bamford, Burgundy, Martinique and Eccesall! There was something very Pentecostal about the international (and Interfaith as one Muslim friend asked to join us in prayer).

Many of us drew round a hand to pray for the 5: planet, nation, city, church and home.

As a momento of that, but also reaching forwards to the next chapter, I'd love to make a flag of our hands for Pentecost 2021...Would you be happy to draw round your hand on fabric (tea towel?) And post to me – don't forget to include your name ! (Please claim the Green/white check tea cloth that has arrived anonymously !) Thanks Yo.

We will continue to offer a zoom worship gathering on Sunday mornings at 11am – updated safeguarding advice means we no longer publicise the meeting link here – it will be sent to you by a separate email – please contact Karen or Catherine using the details below if the email does not arrive. IF YOU WOULD LIKE HELP TO ACCESS THESE SERVICES PLEASE CONTACT KAREN.

Roots resources are providing free prayers and reflections for adults, families and children for each Sunday <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/i-am-looking-for/public-copies/worshipathome7jun>

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