

## **Apart but Together Worship - Hornsea URC Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020 - Trinity Sunday**

Good morning, and welcome to our 'Apart but Together Worship.' [The music and words of all the worship songs and any website quotes can be found by clicking on the blue links.](#)

### **Call to worship:**

Lord, we come to you because you have called us.

We come to you in Jesus name.

We come to proclaim our Heavenly Father's love for us and for the world.

We come to bring to you our adoration and praise.

Lord, empower us with your Holy Spirit to truly acknowledge your presence here with us and to worship you alone.

**Amen.**

This morning we come to Proclaim God's greatness; One God: Father, Spirit, Son. Let's worship the name that is above all names, who is worthy of all praise. We sing together or meditate upon the words of the song: [How Great is Our God](#).

Let us come before our God in an attitude of prayer, and as we do let us bring our love, our worship, our adoration using the song: [Glorify thy name](#)

### **Let us pray:**

**We praise and adore you, our heavenly Father**, that in your grace and providence you richly fill our lives.

You created the world, commanding light to shine out of darkness, making us in your moral image; and you have shone into our minds and hearts, bring wisdom and power. **Father, we love you, we worship and adore you.**

**We praise and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ**, who on the first day of the week rose from the dead in triumph.

You brought immortality to light; you have shown us the dawn beyond darkness. Your word and your power have brought to us the Kingdom of God. **Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you.**

**We praise and adore you, Holy Spirit**, for you revealed your power on the day of Pentecost; and today you are at work in our lives, filling us with the love of the Father, giving us understanding and wisdom. You illumine the Scriptures, bring understanding to our darkened minds; you share your gifts among us to build your church into a spiritual household; you confirm your presence within our lives, giving us love for one another.

**Holy Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you.**

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to you be praise for ever and every. **Amen.**

### **We share together in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray:**

*Our Father, who 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*



**Our first Bible Reading is found in the Old Testament: Psalm 89:1-17 Good News Translation (GNT).**

**A Hymn in Time of National Trouble.**

*O Lord, I will always sing of your constant love; I will proclaim your faithfulness forever.*

*<sup>2</sup> I know that your love will last for all time, that your faithfulness is as permanent as the sky.*

*<sup>3</sup> You said, "I have made a covenant with the man I chose; I have promised my servant David,*

*<sup>4</sup> 'A descendant of yours will always be king; I will preserve your dynasty forever.'"*

*<sup>5</sup> The heavens sing of the wonderful things you do; the holy ones sing of your faithfulness, Lord.*

*<sup>6</sup> No one in heaven is like you, Lord; none of the heavenly beings is your equal.*

*<sup>7</sup> You are feared in the council of the holy ones; they all stand in awe of you.*

*<sup>8</sup> Lord God Almighty, none is as mighty as you; in all things you are faithful, O Lord.*

*<sup>9</sup> You rule over the powerful sea; you calm its angry waves.*

*<sup>10</sup> You crushed the monster Rahab and killed it; with your mighty strength you defeated your enemies.*

*<sup>11</sup> Heaven is yours, the earth also; you made the world and everything in it.*

*<sup>12</sup> You created the north and the south; Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon sing to you for joy.*

*<sup>13</sup> How powerful you are! How great is your strength!*

*<sup>14</sup> Your kingdom is founded on righteousness and justice; love and faithfulness are shown in all you do.*

*<sup>15</sup> How happy are the people who worship you with songs, who live in the light of your kindness!*

*<sup>16</sup> Because of you they rejoice all day long, and they praise you for your goodness.*

*<sup>17</sup> You give us great victories; in your love you make us triumphant.*



We continue to bring our praise and worship as we sing: [Is He Worthy?](#)

**Family Time: Simple!**



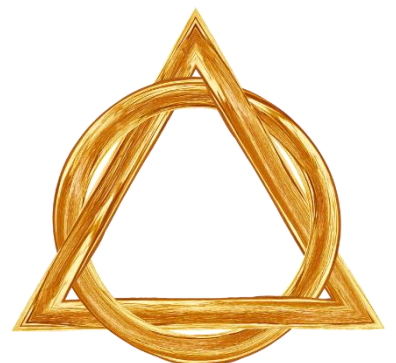
I don't know about you, but one of my favourite advertisements on TV is CompareTheMarket.Com. In essence, it is about humankind going to all sort of places, in all sorts of directions, to all sorts of people trying to find out the answer to one main question that they have, that is until that until they go to one place that has the answer they've been searching for. At the end of the advert, the Meerkat (who symbolises humankind) gets the answer and expresses "Simple!"

The Collins English Dictionary states that 'Simple' is: "an expression used to suggest that something can be done or understood with no difficulty."

Adults often have many questions, and sometimes we can overthink things and make things really difficult for ourselves and for others to understand. Christians believe that the Bible has all the answers we need for this life on earth and for our future in heaven. The Bible should always be our 'go to place.'

In the Bible, Jesus was asked a deep and profound question about God's Kingdom and <sup>2-5</sup> 'For an answer Jesus called over a child, whom he stood in the middle of the room, and said, "I'm telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God's kingdom.'" (The Message - Matthew 18:2-5).'

Adult's often make the Christian teaching concerning 'The Trinity' difficult. We learn from the Bible that God is himself in three different persons: God is the Father, God is the Son, and God is the Holy Spirit. Whilst some find this hard to imagine, children often understand this quite simply using everyday examples such as water is water, but can come in the form of liquid, ice and steam; or fire is fire, but for it to exist and be a fire you need oxygen, heat and fuel; or, my name is Mark and I am a person, but I am body, spirit and soul which collectively make me who I am;



or, I am Mark and whilst I am me, I am a son, a brother, and an uncle, and the way that I express myself and outwork my relationship with my parents, my siblings and my nephews and nieces is very different, but it doesn't stop me being me - collectively it is who I am. Can you think of any other simple examples?

We really don't need to make the Christian teaching concerning the Trinity difficult. What we perhaps need to do is understand it and accept it in an uncomplicated way; and maybe through the eyes of a child. Simples!

In the April / May edition of our Church Newsletter, I wrote: *"I have to confess that I still struggle with a number of the archaic tunes to many of the hymns in 'Rejoice and Sing' – tunes that I struggle to rejoice with or even sing to! That said, I do get much blessing, encouragement and challenge from many of the hymn writers, both ancient and modern."*

Well, here is a very modern worship song (rap), and before you ask, the answer is YES, I struggle with this music too! Nevertheless, I invite you to sit back, take a big, slow, deep breath in, and out (and for some it might be quite a big breath once you start listening), relax (if you can) and meditate upon the words below of: [Triune Praise](#).

### **1) Praise God the Father, the Immortal Creator**

*For Your glory you made us, You're the Sovereign Orchestrator  
All that You decree will most surely come to happen  
You're awesome as can be and Your glory none can fathom  
Nothing could ever stain You, the heavens can't contain You  
We thank You for sending Your Son to explain You  
Otherwise we would have remained in the dark  
But You sent Your Holy Spirit to spark a change in our hearts  
According to Your eternal purpose and will  
You determined to reveal Yourself to those who deserve to be killed  
Those of us whom You foreknew adore You  
We praise You that You predestined us to be conformed to  
The image of Your Son who's the radiance of Your glory  
When I meditate on it, the weightiness of it floors me  
So Father, we'll praise you over and over again  
Because You sent Your only Son to atone for our sins*

Glory to the Father,  
Glory to the Son  
Glory to The Spirit - Three and Yet One  
One in Your essence,  
Three in Your Person  
The same in Your nature,  
distinct in Your working  
Oh my soul –  
behold the wonder of the Trinity  
Blessed be the Trinity, Oh, what a mystery!  
I'll stand amazed for the rest of my days  
Pouring out my heart in Triune praise

### **2) Praise God the Son, Second Person of the Trinity**

*You're distinct from the Father, yet you share in His divinity  
Fulfilling an eternal covenant - You came through  
To planet earth to save who? All the Father gave You  
You became a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief  
For the glory of Your Father You extinguished the beef  
That stood between us at the cross - the Father's anger released  
The Shepherd slain for the sheep, the situation is deep  
I can't find the right language to speak, in fact it's making me weep -  
Just the thought of You saving this creep  
You're risen from the dead, I still can't get this in my head  
How the Judge could leave the bench and go to prison instead  
Lord Jesus, you're amazing, Your bleeding is what saved men  
It's the reason why we're praising, can't wait to see Your face  
In the meantime, please help us to see You as colossal  
And by the Spirit live lives worthy of the gospel*

Glory to the Father,  
Glory to the Son  
Glory to The Spirit - Three and Yet One  
One in Your essence,  
Three in Your Person  
The same in Your nature,  
distinct in Your working  
Oh my soul –  
behold the wonder of the Trinity  
Blessed be the Trinity, Oh, what a mystery!  
I'll stand amazed for the rest of my days  
Pouring out my heart in Triune praise

### **3) Praise God the Holy Spirit, 3rd person of the Trinity**

*Distinct from Father and Son, yet share in Their divinity  
Holy Spirit we praise You, You don't like the spotlight  
You'd rather point away from yourself and give props to Christ  
But yet because You're God, You deserve veneration  
And You're the One responsible for our regeneration  
You apply the finished work of Christ to all the elect  
Your call is effectual - You haven't lost one yet  
You comfort us when sin, Satan and the world got us bothered  
And it's only by You that we cry out "Abba Father"  
You're the Spirit of adoption, the Spirit of Truth  
You graciously provide Your people with the gifts and the fruit  
You help us kill sin and dis-attach us from our idols  
If it wasn't for You, we'd never understand the Bible  
Because You wrote it - For our life it will surely suffice  
Amazingly, You do it all for the glory of Christ!*

**Glory to the Father,  
Glory to the Son  
Glory to The Spirit - Three and Yet One  
One in Your essence,  
Three in Your Person  
The same in Your nature,  
distinct in Your working  
Oh my soul –  
behold the wonder of the Trinity  
Blessed be the Trinity, Oh, what a mystery!  
I'll stand amazed for the rest of my days  
Pouring out my heart in Triune praise**

### **Our second Bible Reading is found in the New Testament: 1 John 5:1-14 Living Bible (TLB)**

*If you believe that Jesus is the Christ - that he is God's Son and your Saviour - then you are a child of God. And all who love the Father love his children too. <sup>2</sup> So you can find out how much you love God's children - your brothers and sisters in the Lord - by how much you love and obey God. <sup>3</sup> Loving God means doing what he tells us to do, and really, that isn't hard at all; <sup>4</sup> for every child of God can obey him, defeating sin and evil pleasure by trusting Christ to help him.*



*<sup>5</sup> But who could possibly fight and win this battle except by believing that Jesus is truly the Son of God? <sup>6-8</sup> And we know he is, because God said so with a voice from heaven when Jesus was baptized, and again as he was facing death - yes, not only at his baptism but also as he faced death. And the Holy Spirit, forever truthful, says it too. So we have these three witnesses: the voice of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, the voice from heaven at Christ's baptism, and the voice before he died. And they all say the same thing: that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. <sup>9</sup> We believe men who witness in our courts, and so surely we can believe whatever God declares. And God declares that Jesus is his Son. <sup>10</sup> All who believe this know in their hearts that it is true. If anyone doesn't believe this, he is actually calling God a liar because he doesn't believe what God has said about his Son.*

*<sup>11</sup> And what is it that God has said? That he has given us eternal life and that this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son, does not have life.*

*<sup>13</sup> I have written this to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may know you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> And we are sure of this, that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. <sup>15</sup> And if we really know he is listening when we talk to him and make our requests, then we can be sure that he will answer us.*

We join together in song as we proclaim: [\*\*This I Believe \(The Creed\).\*\*](#)

### **Biblical Teaching & Reflection:**

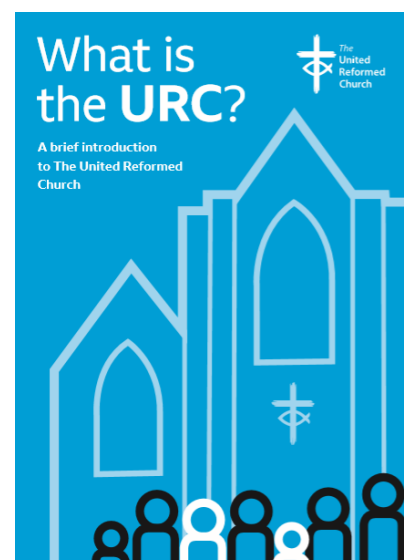
I, along with my wife Kate were very blessed to be able travel to Moscow in August 2017 to visit our daughter-in laws family. In our travels we saw beautiful imagery and artworks in city centres, on the metro (underground train system) as well as in places of worship, and a number of these depicted the Trinity.





So what is the doctrine of the Trinity? In its leaflet - What is the United Reformed Church? Page 12, The URC states *"With the whole Christian Church the United Reformed Church believes in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The living God, the only God, ever to be praised."* <https://urc.org.uk/what-is-the-urc>.

Though there are 'triads' of divinities in many of the world religions and philosophies, none of these carries any similarity to the Christian teaching concerning the Trinity. It must be understood, however, that it is not possible to 'prove' the Trinity from the standpoint of human reason. The Trinitarian nature of God comes to humans by divine revelation. It is interwoven throughout the Old and New Testaments of scripture.



On the United Reformed Church UK website it states that: *“There are all sorts of lenses through which people read scripture as they seek to unpack and understand its meaning. The United Reformed Church celebrates this diversity as a great gift of God, allowing us to discern the will of the Holy Spirit for all God’s people in the different times and places in which they have been placed. To do this effectively, we must engage in differing ways of exploring God’s Word together and challenge each other, in love, to ensure that we are being true to what God is saying to us through the Bible* <https://urc.org.uk/bible-worship>.

So what does God’s Word say about the doctrine of the Trinity, which is a distinctive mark of Christianity, to us through the Bible today?



In the Bible, we see that God is presented as a rational Spirit being who is infinite in his attributes of love, holiness, wisdom, power, majesty, justice, truth, and goodness. The Bible also presents God as one who exists externally in three persons yet is still one in substance and in purpose.

#### **Biblical Teaching 1: There is one God.**

In the Old Testament, God is revealed in the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-5), with which every Jewish synagogue is opened; in the Decalogue (Exodus 20:3); and by the prophets (Isaiah 45:5-6).

In the New Testament God is revealed in the words of Jesus (John 10:30), the words of James (James 2:19), and the words of Paul (1 Corinthians 8:4-6). He is described as the Father *“of whom are all things”* (v.6) and in whom *“we live, and move, and have our being”* (Acts 17:28).

Adam and Eve believed in one God, but sin gave birth to polytheism - the worship of or belief in multiple deities, which are usually assembled into a pantheon of gods and goddesses - because in his guilt, man manufactured gods whom he could appease. Sinful humans feared demonstrations of natural power, so they worshipped the wind, the sun, fire, and so on. Today material things often become gods in people’s lives.

#### **Biblical Teaching 2: The one God exists as three persons.**

The first inference of the Trinity is discovered in Genesis 1:1, when Moses used the plural form of the divine name: *“In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.”* Our God is so great in his being and in his attributes that to limit him to one expression or manifestation is to ignore his majesty and power.

Several passages use more than one Hebrew word for God, making a distinction between God the Father and God the Son (Psalms 45:6-7; 110:1; Hosea 1:7). Other remarkable passages refer to the Angel of Jehovah (Genesis 16:7-14; 22:11-16; Exodus 3:2-5; Judges 13:20-22).

The amazing fact of the New Testament is the way in which it presents the doctrine of the Trinity without any controversy. The teaching of Jesus is Trinitarian throughout. He speaks to the Father and of the Holy Spirit, and he does so without apology and without explanation (John 14:16-17; 15:26). Simple!

Paul gives an apostolic benediction in 2 Corinthians 13:14, which is a prayer directed to Christ for his grace, to the Father for his love, and to the Holy Spirit for his fellowship. Here the deity and equality of each person of the Godhead are taken for granted. God exists as three persons, and each of the three is equal in power and glory being one in substance.

It is also important to note that in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) Jesus instructed his followers to go into all the world *“baptising them in the name – **not names** – of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”* This is another indication of the unity and oneness of the Trinity.



### Bible Teaching 3: One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

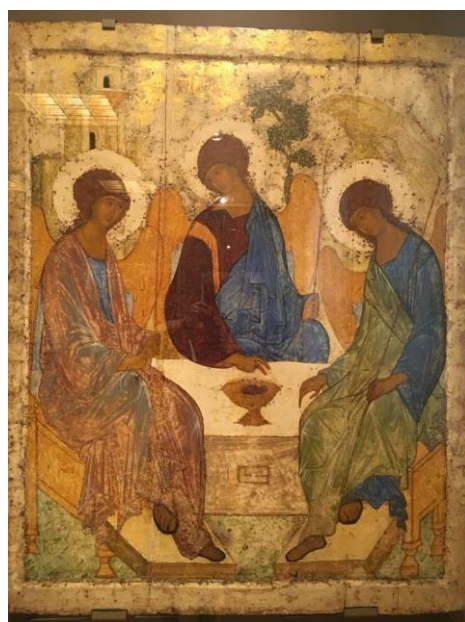
The Bible teaches that the Father is God. On many occasions Jesus prayed to God the Father (Mark 14:36; John 11:41; 17:11). In 1 Corinthians 8:6 Paul declares, *"To us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things."* Again, Paul identifies himself as *"an apostle – sent ... by Jesus Christ and God the Father"* (Galatians 1:1).

The Bible teaches that the Son is God. John wrote, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"* (John 1:1, 14). *"For in him [Christ] dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"* (Colossians 2:9). Hebrews 1:3 is one of the strongest statements in the New Testament that declares the deity of Jesus. He is said to be the exact expression of the substance of God. What is substance? It is whatever is necessary to be God. The Son is declared to be the exact expression of that substance. Also, the attributes of Deity ascribed to God alone are also ascribed to the Son: holiness (John 6:69; Hebrews 7:26), immutability (Hebrews 1:11-12; 13:8), omnipotence (Matthew 28:18), omniscience (Matthew 9:4, John 16:30), life (John 1:4; 11:25; 14:6), eternity (John 1:1; 8:58; 17:5; Hebrews 1:8), omnipresence (Matthew 28:20), judgement (Matthew 25:31-46), and creation (John 1:3, 10; Colossians 1:16-17).

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is God. Peter declared in his words to Ananias that the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4). Paul also declared it (1 Corinthians 2:11). And Jesus implied in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) that the Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as Deity.

Going back to my trip to Moscow, one personal highlight for me was to visit Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery, and there I was able to see the 'The Trinity' icon created by Russian painter Andrei Rublev in the 15th century. It is his most famous work and the most famous of all Russian icons, and it is regarded as one of the highest achievements of Russian art. I first fell in love with the power and yet simplicity of this artistic interpretation whilst having teaching and learning with regard to iconology within the Eastern Orthodox Christianity in Ordained Ministry training in the mid-1990s. I never thought then that I would ever get to see it for real in the future.

As you take your time, and stand back to look, in order to see the whole picture and the reality that is being presented you begin to see how the Trinity is One, represented within the circle, and yet at the same time The Divine persons are distinct from one another. Maybe we need to step back to see the whole picture interwoven, or painted, throughout the Bible today so as to see our Holy One God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity.



Let us affirm our belief in who God is as we sing together: [Holy, Holy, Holy.](#)

**We turn now to our time of Intercessory prayer:**

Father, we come in Christ to pray for the church and the world.

We pray for Christians everywhere, that they may come to you in the sure and simple way that Christ came to his Father's house.

Be there, we pray, for those who seek you with heart and soul and mind and strength, and be with those who go in your name to love their neighbour as themselves.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our pray.**

Lord, make us your witnesses. So fill our lives with your love and truth that others will know that we have been with Christ.

We are so aware that many of those around us, many of those we meet, are living small, cramped, empty lives. They are existing when you intended them to live; they are hanging on by the skin of their teeth when you are offering life in all its fullness.

We pray that what we say and how we say it, what we do and how we do it, will enable those who do not know you and have never loved you to be caught up by the wonder of your love for them.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our pray.**

Lord, make us your servants. So touch our lives by your Holy Spirit that we may be equipped to care for the carefree, love the unlovable and enable the ungrateful to give thanks.

Lord, call us to be your servants to those whom life treats harshly, those overwhelmed by grief and loss, those who are finding life hard to cope with, those who are crushed or defeated by the demands and expectations of others for themselves.

We pray for those who are poor, hungry, homeless or lacking the skills necessary to love in our modern world.

Save us from patronising others with our words and fill us with love that is genuine.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our pray.**

Lord, make us channels of hope and healing and wholeness to those who are broken and defeated by life.

We pray for any we know personally to be in need of God's healing touch.

We think of those who are ill, those who are lonely or afraid, those who are dying and those who watch with them, those who are filled with regrets or remorse, those who do not know which way to turn, those for whom the bottom has dropped out of their lives.

Fill us with your Spirit we pray, that the light of your mercy may reach into the darkest corners of life.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our pray.**

Lord, we pray for ourselves. Keep our eyes fixed on Christ, the source of all faith, hope and love.

In him, bring our faith to perfection. By your Holy Spirit, may it come to full bloom.

May we feel your touch in every part of our lives. In the quietness, we open our lives to you and your will.

By your Spirit, may our lives honour you and our dying glorify you with praise that never ends for all eternity.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our pray.**

In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We began our service in praise and worship, and so we now conclude our service in praise and worship as we join in singing: [The Doxology.](#)

We share together in the 'The Grace' found in 2 Corinthians 13:14.

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

