

# Traditional Home service

## Sunday 30th May

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have given us your servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith,  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal  
Trinity and in the power of the divine  
majesty to worship the Unity:  
keep us steadfast in this faith,  
that we may evermore be defended from  
all adversities; 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.

### PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Let us return to the Lord our God and  
say to him:

**O King enthroned on high,  
filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.  
In our sinfulness we cry to you  
to take our guilt away, and to cleanse  
our lips to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the  
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to  
God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms,  
hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.  
Open our lips, Lord:  
**and we shall praise your name.**

*HYMN 1 (To God Be the Glory)*

READINGS - Isaiah 6.1-8  
Romans 8.12-17  
John 3.1-17

### TALK

### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth. I believe in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who  
was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of  
the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was  
buried; he descended to the dead. On  
the third day he rose again; he ascended  
into heaven, he is seated at the right  
hand of the Father, and he will come to  
judge the living and the dead. I believe in  
the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness  
of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Spend some time praying for our nation,  
our community and our families.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your  
name, your kingdom come, your will be  
done, on earth as in heaven. Give us  
today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver  
us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and for  
ever. Amen.

*HYMN 2 (How Great Thou Art)*

### CONCLUSION

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you, the Lord look  
kindly on you and give you peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you  
always.  
Amen.

## HYMNS TO USE

To God be the glory  
Great things He has done  
So loved He the world that He gave us  
His Son  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin  
And opened the life-gate that all may go  
in

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Let the earth hear His voice  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Let the people rejoice  
Come to the Father  
Through Jesus the Son  
Give Him the glory  
Great things He has done*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of  
blood  
To every believer the promise of God  
The vilest offender who truly believes  
That moment from Jesus a pardon  
receives

Great things He has taught us, great  
things He has done  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the  
Son  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we  
see

Oh Lord, my God  
When I, in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have  
made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe  
displayed

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to  
Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to  
Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

And when I think that God, His Son not  
sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly  
bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come, with shout of  
acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my  
heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great  
Thou art

Sermon Notes - Louise Morton  
Isaiah 6.1-8, Romans 8.12-17,  
John 3.1-17  
Its ok for God to be complicated!

I think for all of us there are things we put our trust in we don't fully understand!  
For me much of technology is a mystery!  
How planes fly?  
Even how an acorn becomes an oak tree?  
You get the idea!

So I do propose when thinking about God as one yet three, the trinity : Father, Son, and Spirit, And we don't get it! That's ok ! It's ok for God to be complicated!  
For me I'd be more surprised if it was simpler!

I think it's reassuring God is complex, why shouldn't he be complicated! Why does everything need to be immediately apparent.....  
He's God!  
He can be three persons, and one at the same time..  
Why not!  
A few reflections on the trinity!

A book I read quite a few years ago now, I found beautifully displayed the wonder of the three yet one, is The Shack, it's a fictional tale that contains Godly truth, and insight, a bit like Narnia.  
I found it a deeply moving book to read, but I know it won't be helpful for everyone!  
Here is the protagonist meeting the trinity! ( the Nan referred to is his wife)

When they finally stopped giggling, the large woman put her arm around Mack's shoulders, drew him to her, and said, "Okay, we know who you are, but we should probably introduce ourselves to you. I," she waved her hands with a flourish, "am the house keeper and cook. You may call me Elousia".  
Elouisa ? Said Mack, not comprehending at all.  
"Okay, you don't have to call me Elousia; it's just a name I am particularly fond of and has particular meaning for me, So" she crossed her arms and put one hand under her Chin as if thinking especially hard, " you could call me what Nan does."  
What? You don't mean.... Now Mack was surprised and even more confused. Surely this was not the Papa who sent the note? " I mean are you saying Papa?"  
"yes" she responded and smiled.....  
" And I" interrupted the man, who looked to be about in his thirties..... " I try and keep things fixed up around here. I enjoy working with my hands although, as these two might tell you I take pleasure in cooking and gardening as much as they do."  
" You look as if you come from the Middle East, maybe Arab?" Mack guessed.

"Actually, I'm a step brother of that great family. I am Hebrew, to be exact, from the house of Judah."

"Then.." Mack was staggered ....Then you are....  
"Jesus?yes. .... it's become my common name. My mother called me Yeshua....."

Mack stood dumbfounded and mute.... here he was, or was he really here at all? Emotion swept over him... he felt about to crumple..... the Asian woman stepped closer and deflected his attention.

"And I am Sarayu" she said as she tilted her head in a slight bow and smiled." Keeper of the gardens among other things"

Thoughts tumbled over each other as Mack struggled to figure out what to do.....he knew his mind was rambling, so he focused on the one question he most wanted answered.  
"Then, Mack struggled to ask, which one of you is God?"  
"I am," said all three in unison. Mack looked from one to the other, and even though he couldn't begin to grasp what he was seeing and hearing, he somehow believed them.

Now for something less modern!  
An Icon from the 1400s ...



And also a view from the Gospels! At Jesus baptism there stands the Son Jesus in the Jordan river, the spirit hovers over him as a dove, and the Father's voice from heaven, "here is my son, beloved, with whom I am well pleased".

One of the marvellous things about God is who he is, displays relationship at its best, Father, Son, and Spirit. At the very heart of who God is, is beautiful working relationship, a yielding and love beyond our understanding.  
Here is relationship perfect in every way, no point scoring, no competition, they are all about bringing glory to each other, preferring the other...complete security and love.

And wonder upon wonder, we are called to join in, called to the space at the table, to take up

our place, adopted into the family, a precious son, a precious daughter!

I've recently finished reading Judges, particularly in the Old Testament there are characters whose behaviour is not something to emulate! But in the readings today of Isaiah and Nicodemus there is treasure to be had!

Nicodemus is fearful, he comes to see Jesus at night! He has seen him in action, and he is more than curious, he sees God at work in what's happening...

It's so interesting! He is a Pharisee, part of a group who were most critical of Jesus, and it's so revealing when he says: we all know you're a teacher straight from God; the evidence was there, but were they just to self important, frightened of losing status... to accept it?

Jesus encourages him, exhorts him: "instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions"

In other words come on jump in! Don't be like the others holding back, we know Nicodemus did commit to Jesus, later on he is named as helping in his burial.

This resonates with Paul writing to the Romans: " God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do places to go, ..(be) .. adventurously expectant.. and ...(ask) .....What's next Papa?"

Paul goes on to say hard times and good times are ahead, but the marvellous reassurance is, we're not alone He is with us.

Love the passage from Isaiah!  
How big was what Isaiah saw!  
God so big just the train of his robe filled the temple.

Isaiah glimpsing the glory, catching the wonder of heavenly worship, the Holiness before him. His response, it's similar to Peter when after a fruitless nights fishing, on a word from Jesus the nets are bursting. Peter says away from me Lord, I am a sinful man.

Isaiah says he is doomed!

I'm tainted and the people I'm from are tainted!  
The realisation Isaiah has, as Paul writes in Romans, is that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

However good we may try to be, our goodness doesn't cut it, we can't compare, all fall short... All our efforts as dust....it is good to know our limitations, to know we need more than us. We need a heavenly solution!

Isaiah accepts the cleansing, the coal on his lips!  
It's an individual cleansing.

And he is ready: here I am send me ! I will spread the word, I will go....

Jesus describes in John a global solution, the well known John 3 16  
God loved the world so much, he sent his Son, that whoever believes in Him shall have eternal life.

An adventure with Him for eternity which starts on earth.

What is our part, it's buy in, lay down to holding back, don't procrastinate as Jesus says to Nicodemus!

It's ok for God to be complicated, rejoice that even in the mystery of who he is, he is all about relationship, and we are welcome at the table precious son, precious daughter.

Amen!