

The Parish Church of St Andrew
and St Cuthman, Steyning

REFLECTIONS



Please feel free to stay to the end of the concluding music, or to leave quietly while the hymn is playing.

in case anyone would like some individual prayer, we will be available in the side chapels after the service

If you would like to be part of our Reflections team, helping us to put together the service and/or deliver it, please speak to any one of the team.

Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved.

**‘Reflections on the
Trinity’**

4 June 2023

Music on entrance

O God of our Salvation (*Matt Boswell*)

Words of Welcome

Reading: Poem

To the Holy Trinity (*Michael Walker*)

I found myself upon a verdant glade
Beneath the trees in a field of clover,
Three leaves of which Three Persons once
had made,
To covet the blessed land thrice over,

And in that glade did grow my lonely rose,
Wherein three petals kissed and did embrace,
And there, Three Persons sought their sweet
repose,
The rose to be kissed thrice - once by each
face.

Yet when the winter frost encased the land,
The Three retreated into my small hut,
Within which my hearth warmed our lonely
band,
And kept us from the bitter weather shut.

And they remained to make their home with
me,
To be three windows through whom I can
see.

Music

Trinity Song (*Sandra McCracken*)

Holy Father, Son and Spirit
Holy Communion, Three in One
Holy Father, Son and Spirit
Holy Communion, Three in One.

Come with Your peace, with Your invitation
Bind us together in holy love
Come with Your peace, with Your invitation
Bind us together in holy love.

Final Bible verses and Blessing

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Amen

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Concluding music:

Holy, holy, holy (*Reginald Heber*)

Choir of King's College, Cambridge

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy
All the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim
Falling down before Thee
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy
Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eyes of sinful man
Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy
There is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Luke 3:21-22: Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Ephesians 4:4-6: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Reading - Poem

Trinity Sunday Sonnet (*Malcolm Guite*)

In the Beginning, not in time or space,
But in the quick before both space and time,
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,
In music, in the whole creation story,
In His own image, His imagination,
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,
And makes us each the other's inspiration.
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,
To improvise a music of our own,
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,
Three notes resounding from a single tone,
To sing the End in whom we all begin;
Our God beyond, beside us and within.

Prayer

Lord God beyond us, with wide-embracing love your Spirit changes, sustains, dissolves, creates and rears. God The Father; you send God the Son; God the Son sends God the Spirit. And the circle of your creation outflows into us as it draws us into you. We celebrate the mystery and joy at the heart of creation. Holy God beyond us, we celebrate the mystery and joy which is found even in us.

Lord, you who are three Persons yet one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, living and reigning in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your facets and rejoice in your eternal glory, now and for ever.

Amen

Holy Father, Son and Spirit
Holy Communion, Three in One
Holy Father, Son and Spirit
Holy Communion, Three in One.

Come with Your peace, with Your invitation
Bind us together in holy love
Come with Your peace, with Your invitation
Bind us together in holy love.

Holy Father, Son and Spirit
Holy Father, Son and Spirit
Holy Father, Son and Spirit.

Three in One
Three in One
Three in One
Three in One.

Words © Integrity Worship Music

Bible Reading

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.

John 3:1-17

Music into Silence

O Triune God (*Ken Canedo*) **Tune:** *O Filii et Filiae*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
O triune God, enthroned on high
All saints and angels, awestruck cry
And earth sings back in glad reply
Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
O triune fount of living light
Your glory spills from heaven’s height
To fill our spirits with delight
Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
O triune cloud of burning fire
Inflame our hearts with your desire
No greater joy could love require
Alleluia

Words © OCP

Reflective Silence (about 12-15 minutes)

Music out of Silence:

Song to the Trinity (*Mike Stanley*) sung by Leslie Cheong, tune: *Buachaill ón Eirne* (the Boy from Loch Erne, Irish traditional)

Father, I know that your love for me knows no bounds.
When darkness has fallen
your voice from the heavens resounds.
Saying “Trust and believe, come and walk on my road to its end”.
Then take me home Father, Spirit and Son,
my master and friend.

Spirit, I know that your truth is spoken each day.
But power and greed change the creed,
leaving truth to decay.
So let the heavens resound with hosannas to you, Holy One,
For in you Father, Spirit and Son
the battle is won.

Jesus, I know that your love for me has no end.
My faith growing stronger each day that on you I depend.
When my doubting subsides,
when I’m finally brought to my knees;
Through my prayer, Father, Spirit and Son,
your grace is revealed.

Words © 1995 CJM Music

Meditation on Bible Verses

Luke 1:35: The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Matthew 28:19: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22: But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first instalment.