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Description automatically generatedTrinity Sunday 30th May 2021

Worship Sheet compiled by Sue Kinder of St. Ives Methodist Church



The Father, Son, Holy Spirit nature of our one God can be hard to comprehend and harder to explain. Therefore this sheet is intended just to bring us to a sense of awe and wonder. Our transcendent God has stooped to solve our sin and separation and then invited us to reunite with Him. He’s done it all – we gratefully accept and worship Him.

**Song:** StF 62 - Our God is an awesome God - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PP9BjKnDaFk>

And speaking of awesome, the following clip of a volcano has David Attenborough telling us that without it, there would be no life on earth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4qDgsyFw7M>

**Reading** **Is 6v1-8** and of course, the **Hymn** StF 11 – Holy, holy, holy, Lord God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKN9KxC866I>

**Prayers** We adore you, O God, our king; your name shall always be upon our lips, for your love is great, and greatly to be praised. Those who went before us praised your works; those who follow us will praise your name. Our words shall resound with the proclamation of your goodness and righteousness, for you are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. You are good to all, and you show tender mercies to everyone. Your kingdom is glorious in power, your majesty is beyond words, your kingdom will last for ever, and your praise shall be sung eternally. We adore you now, Creator God. We adore you now, Loving Lord Jesus. We adore you now, Eternal Spirit. **Amen.**

Father God, you have created all things, from the mightiest mountain to the tiniest fish and flower. Through Christ you have revealed your salvation in all the world. Give us a vision of your glory and by your Holy Spirit fill us with life and love that we may praise and serve You, through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Most merciful God, we confess to you and before the whole company of heaven that we have sinned in thought and word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. **Amen**

**Lord’s Prayer and NICENE CREED** (p190 MWB)

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Description automatically generated<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_(Andrei_Rublev)> There is an icon painting from the 1400s of Abraham’s three visitors who can also be taken to represent Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The background highlights instances in Abraham’s life but also draws us to think of features connecting the persons of the Godhead. The people have the same face, they all carry the staff of authority, and they all are dressed in blue for divinity. Each character is inclining their head in a sign of deference to the one on their right, but also pointing in respectfulness to the one on their left. It’s a team effort. Perhaps, you might notice Father, Son and Holy Spirit being mentioned collectively in your bible reading. There are over a hundred passages where all three are shown as working together in harmony.

**Scripture Reading:** **John 3v1-17**

In the lectionary reading about Nicodemus seeking answers, Jesus uses the imagery of the unseen wind, to promote the activity of the Spirit. The translators of John’s gospel also have Jesus going against expected Greek grammar of an impersonal “it” for the Spirit, and use the word “He”. Wherever the Spirit is mentioned in the bible, He is acting and feeling like a person does, rather than an *im*personal, *un*feeling force. The Spirit’s role will be to remind the disciples of Jesus’ teaching -not to add anything or change anything, but remind them of what Jesus said. And Jesus said that His words were not His own, but came from the Father. This is Father, Son and Spirit working together in one accord.

Jesus explains to Nicodemus what “born again” means by referring to Moses making a bronze snake on a pole. This is a kind of pattern prefiguring the role of Jesus. In the desert wilderness the people have sinned, snakes bite them and the people die. Moses makes a sculpture in bronze, a metal used to signify judgment. And so the very thing causing death is raised high and condemned, just as Jesus would have our sins that will cause our death and separation from God, laid on Him, and He is raised up to take our judgement and death so that we might be saved.

**Song:** MP 988 - How deep the Father’s love for us - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0CDqG5STPM>

**Read Gen 24** as a pattern of the Trinity from the Old Testament, and its similarity to the role of the Holy Spirit preparing a bride for Christ. The un-named servant in complete control and charge of everything, who seeks nothing for himself, is tasked with getting a wife for his master’s beloved son. At the well Rebekah serves the servant, and she offers to water his camels. This is a hard-working woman responding, in faith, love and with works. The servant comes with ten camels (everything that’s needed) and two gold bracelets gifted, balanced with one on each arm. Rebekah accepts more gifts when they are placed on her, which mark her out visibly as the chosen bride, just as in our earthly society today, the engagement ring marks out a chosen bride. And in the spiritual, if we have made the commitment to be the chosen bride of Christ, been born again, we will receive gifts to show it. Rebekah offers space in the tent for this servant, his men and the camels. This is going to take up a lot of room, typifying a range of changes in our own life to accommodate the things of God, above our own convenience. Rebekah -the church- has not seen Abraham (the Father) or Isaac (the Son) but hears about them from the servant (Holy Spirit). Rebekah is presented with a choice and she responds in faith. Our yes or no determines our destiny in time and for eternity. The girl remains with her family for a while then Rebekah/the church follows the servant/HS in faith who guides her to her destination, the point at which she will meet her bridegroom. And on that culmination of the plan when Rebekah and Isaac finally meet, there is a marriage; as there will be, when we are welcomed into the marriage feast of the Lamb. That’s the eternal plan of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Everything works together towards that momentous occasion and each of us has been chosen to participate in the glory of uniting with the Godhead. As we ponder this image of the offer perhaps it will help us, to hold in tension an understanding of our triune God who is both awesome yet intimate, and bring us to a response of grateful, humble worship.

**Song:** MP 465 - Meekness and Majesty - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1OZKzXNTRM>

**Please form your own prayers around:** What is happening that makes God angry? Then share with God what makes you angry

What is in the world that makes God sad? Then share with God what makes you sad.

What makes God rejoice? Then share with Him what makes you happy.

**Hymn:** StF 718 - We lay our broken World - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvmXNG6VXJU>

**To send us on our way** Lord, by your Spirit send us out empowered to be the answer to someone’s prayer today.

Lord, in the humility of Jesus help us to receive the answers that someone else has prayed for us today.

Lord, as our creative Father, show us our own role in bringing about answers to the things we have prayed for today.

And Lord let us encourage others with the testimonies of answered prayer, this day and every day. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**