

Notes for week beginning 17.6.2019

## The Trinity

Activity – if your group likes making things:

Prepare some circles of white card, about 6 inch in diameter. Divide into 3 segments, write name/characteristics of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a different segment using a different colour for each. Insert a pencil through the middle of the circle to form a spinning top. The colours will blur, representing One God but 3 distinct persons.

Readings:

Romans 5: 1-5

John 16: 12 -15

Janet Harris spoke of her work in Vietnam.

Sermon:

- Ali's walk back to work and conversation with colleagues
- Mystery of 3 in 1
- Athanasian creed – 400 years to gain consensus
- John 16: V 12-13 – revelation to disciples is not yet complete. Will come later
- God gives us what we need when we need it
- Jesus and the Holy Spirit do not speak autonomously. V 14-15 the work of the Holy Spirit is a continuation of Jesus' ministry
- The early church's Expression of faith changed – God is one essence, 3 persons
- Perichoresis – relationship is not hierarchical or authoritarian – characterised by unity in diversity, perfect love, justice and interdependency
- "Divine dance" - reciprocal giving/receiving
- God is not an individual being but a relational one – relationships are both mutually exclusive to the Godhead and open to humanity through the Holy Spirit.
- Rublev icon The Holy Trinity – impression of circular movement – a triune – seen as a Trinity not as separate figures. Gap for observer – invited to be connected with the living God.
- Application
  1. Faith is a journey
  2. Trinity is known through relationship and experience – we are invited to connect with the living/loving God
  3. What it means to be church – a mode of existence. A counter cultural, even subversive way of being. Not expressed through independence but interdependence: rooted in equality where diversity is held in unity: where our identities become known through our relationships with one another and our communities.
- The Trinity bears witness to what the church is called to be – a communion of people.
- We need to connect to our community and those places where we live and work. The more we remain connected to God, the more we will see him in the world around us.

### Questions to consider

1. Reflect upon the service on Sunday.  
Was there anything that spoke to you about Janet's work in Vietnam – how could you best support her, individually and as a group?
2. Thinking of Ali's conversation with her work colleagues on the way back from lunch, How would you have answered Ali's colleague?
3. Where are you on the journey of faith – at the beginning, approaching your destination, have you taken a detour? Could your journey be smoother? What diverts you from the road?
4. How can we connect with the living, loving God?
5. Is the church counter-cultural and subversive today? Do you play your part? Pray for each other and All Saints'.