

**Worship at Home:
Sunday Worship for 30 May 2021
Trinity Sunday**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Rev Rebecca Mathew

My brothers and sisters, we meet in the name of God:

**All God the Father,
 God the Son,
 God the Spirit:
 God is one.**

The president briefly introduces the service

 Be with us, Spirit of God;
All nothing can separate us from your love.

 Breathe on us, breath of God;
All fill us with your saving power.

 Speak in us, wisdom of God;
All bring strength, healing and peace.

Silence is kept.

 The Lord is here.
All His Spirit is with us.

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sung by St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis

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 eye 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.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Tune: Nicaea

The president says

So we consider those things that we have been struggling with at this time.

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Woe is me, for I am lost: I am a person of unclean lips:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

REFLECTION

Given by Rev Eileen Harrop

The tradition of naming in the Chinese culture is rather Trinitarian. Each person is identified firstly by an over-arching Family or Ancestral name, which is followed by a name that represents the generation, then a personal name completes the third part. My Chinese name is *Zhou Qian Yue*. It tells me that I belong to my father's ancestral family (Zhou), in the generation of 'reverence' (Qian), and I am a jewel of heaven (Yue).

I value the belonging, continuity, and legacy of worthy attributes such as reverence, and treasure my own name: a jewel of heaven. However, no peoples live up to all expectations, and all suffer from the sin or shame of our ancestors, our generation, and our personal failures.

How wonderful therefore is Jesus' discourse with Nicodemus in our Gospel according to John: "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. Despite the sin of our ancestors, the mistakes of our generation, and our own failings, we are re-born and restored into the family of God our Father in heaven. We are one in the Spirit as brothers and sisters with Christ Jesus, and heirs in God's eternal kingdom.

ANTHEM

Christ be with me (verse 1)

Sung by St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.*

*Words: Patrick of Ireland (attributed) (c386-c460),
Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Read by Catherine Mathew

A reader says

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. (6.1-8)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Angels were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

Then one of the angles flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Given by Rev Stanley Nijoka

Growing up in Kenya, my parents would regularly say; *if you want to go far, you go together as a family, but if you want to go fast, you go alone, and then you will get tired, bored and not go far enough.* My experience has taught me this to be true, but I have also realized that you cannot go together in a group without inhabiting qualities that bring about a common bond.

Professor John Mbiti was an African theologian who has influenced my way of life in various ways and one of the favourite things he said is; - *'I am because we are, and because we are, therefore I am'*.- This is a statement that reflects the African belief of a universal bond of sharing, that connects all humanity. I am reminded of this statement particularly today when we celebrate Trinity Sunday; a day we behold the Trinitarian life as a life to be lived; a love to be shared; and a beauty to be revealed.

Working as a lead chaplain of an acute NHS Trust during the pandemic was the most challenging and painful time which will stay with me for the rest of my life. The pain of seeing so many people struggling so much with Covid-19 and too many dying, including colleagues, supporting relatives via zoom while I sat or stood by their relatives in the last hours of their lives. Listening to the agonizing and frustrated staff. My relatives, my friends were so anxious and worried that my life was something that was so real that you could cut with an axe... Truly I missed those connections, family, church and other networks which means a lot to me- a connection with humanity.

ANTHEM

Christ be with me (verse 2)

Sung by St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis

*Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

*Words: Patrick of Ireland (attributed) (c386-c460),
Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895)*

PSALM 29

Read by Thomas Mathew

The Voice of God in a Great Storm

A Psalm of David.

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,^[a]
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendour.

³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.

- ⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,^[b]
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
- ¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Read by Miss Rebecca Mathen

A reading from the Gospel according to John. (3.1-17)

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev Shemil Mathew

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Lead by The Rev Canon Dr Chigor Chike

Let us declare our faith in God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All 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.

HYMN

Christ be in my waking

Sung by St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis

Christ be in my waking, as the sun is rising,
in my day of working, with me every hour.
Christ be in my resting, as the day is ending,
calming and refreshing, watching through the night.

Christ be in my thinking, and my understanding,
guarding me from evil, walking in the light.
Christ be in my speaking, every word a blessing,
pure and not deceiving, grace to all who hear.

*Jesus, this is my devotion,
all my life to know you,
every day to walk with you.
Saviour, you're my deepest longing,
you're the one I live for,
teach me Lord, to walk with you.*

Christ be in my gladness for the joy of living,
thankful for the goodness of the Father's hand.
Christ be in my sorrow, and my day of darkness,
knowing that I follow in the steps he trod.

*Jesus, this is my devotion,
all my life to know you,
every day to walk with you.
Saviour, you're my deepest longing,
you're the one I live for,
teach me Lord, to walk with you.*

Christ when hope has faded, nothing left to cling to,
every pleasure jaded, every well is dry.
Christ the loving shepherd draws me with his kindness,
leads me from the desert to the streams of life.

*Stuart Townend (born 1963) and Simon Brading
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songs excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Kingswaysongs,
a division of David C Cook www.kingswayworship.co.uk*

INTERCESSIONS

Lead by Dr Sanjee Perera, Archbishops' Adviser on Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns

Father, Creator God, who fashioned the heartbeat of the swallow,
And the breath of the wren, wrapped in frost,
Hold fast our purpose, our life, in your palm,
And may our works upon the earth, be your delight & joy!

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our psalm.

Son, born of woman, who dwelt in the dew-stained poppy fields,
And wept in grey, grief laden graveyards,
At your feet we lay, the weights of love and death,
And broken and breathless, behold this new Eden craft!

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our psalm.

Wild Iridescent Spirit, who whistles through the reeds and rushes,
And warms the hazy, honey golden dusk,
The lightness of your call, waltz upon our thoughts,
And our rest, our sabbath, soar on Your feral, fertile breath!

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our psalm.

Mother, Creator God, who birthed & bathed the blue thrush eggs,
And knows by rote, its *raptured, twice sung song*,
Huddled we seek, the Grace of aching, listening love,
And soothe to psalms of spinning, terraqueous, turquoise earth!

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our psalm.

Son, born of Spirit, who grew like the *supple rod of almond trees*,
And lost us in the crush, of torrenting, temple throng,
From the well we draw, so you might know, tarry and thirst,
And in being known, seek out to send, sing this Eden's Psalm!

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our psalm.

Still Small Voice, Spirit, seep softly after quake, storm and fire,
And hold trembling fears, in tender calming Grace,
Hold fast this wound, *this weeping clay, this calling dust*,
And in that Grace, decaying flesh restore, in Easter's song!

All Lord, in your mercy, in that Triune harmony, be our song in that Eternal Opus.

PRAYER

*Written by Rev Beverley Hunt and read by Rosemarie Davidson-Gotobed
(National Minority Ethnic Vocations Officer)*

Father of all creation,
we humble ourselves before you,
We come as we are, united by your cross,
as a people of diversity and difference
from different cultures, and different races.
We come as one in Christ with different strengths, different gifts:
and different names.
We are your people, and you are our God,
Help us to follow your example and reach out to others
As you have reached out to us;
And teach us love one another, as you have loved us.
This we ask in Jesus' name.

All Amen.

COLLECT

Rev Beverley Hunt

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.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Led by Weiwei Cui, Lay Member, Diocese of Norwich

All 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.

BLESSING

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and for ever.

All Amen.

HYMN

Thou whose almighty word

Sung by St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis

Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the Gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move o'er the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light.

John Marriott (1780-1825), Thomas Raffles (1788-1863)

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Music Performed by St Martin's Singers, directed by Andrew Earis.

BSL Interpretation by Naomi Barry.

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