



11.00am Choral Eucharist The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity 2019

Words of Martin Luther King: 'There is a little tree planted on a little hill and on that tree hangs the most influential character that ever came in this world. But never feel that that tree is a meaningless drama that took place on the stages of history. Oh no, it is a telescope through which we look out into the long vista of eternity, and see the love of God breaking forth into time. It is an eternal reminder to a power-drunk generation that love is the only way. It is an eternal reminder to a generation depending on [wealth, on inequality], a generation depending on physical violence that love is the only creative, redemptive, transforming power in the universe.'

One only needs to flick on the news to see how much we need these words today. *There* is the little tree [Crucifixion Mosaic above the High Altar]. And we shall be there again, on that little hill, in a few moments time as Jesus' Body is broken again, as His Blood is shed again for us in this Eucharist.

But, it is those last words I want to draw out today: 'that love is the only creative, redemptive, transforming power in the universe.'

This great feast of the Most Holy Trinity is not an exercise in mental gymnastics. This great feast is about *Love*. God's love.

The Doctrine of the Trinity means that you cannot take the name of Christian unless you believe that there was never a time when love was not: Before all things, were the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Never were they not. So before all things there was not just love - a kind of 'nice idea' but *loving relationship*; and being swept up into this perfect union of love - the dance of the Trinity - is the destiny of all that has been and will be created. This belief is unique to the Christian faith, no one else seeks to see the universe through the fact that before all things were, and after all things have ceased to be, there is *loving relationship*. This changes everything: who we are, where we've come from, and where we're going.

Alongside the Nicene and Apostles Creeds is the oft-neglected creed of Athanasius - the third universal creed. It contains these words 'the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is; such is the Son; and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father unlimited; the Son unlimited; and the Holy Ghost unlimited. The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternal; but

one eternal.'... and it goes on and on.

Before there *was* - there was loving relationship. This perfect love [hand] between Father, Son and Holy Spirit; this love was so full, and perfect and life-giving that it overflowed, spilling out into the creation that by that overflowing came to be. **A dance that got out of hand in the most glorious way.** To my mind - this Christian understanding of creation holds our current best scientific theories of the origins of the universe rather well. And more importantly perhaps - it helps us to escape the image of God as puppet-master or even worse - uncaring supervisor. Instead this is a *Christian* image - of creation come from God's love, *because* of God's love and destined *for* God's love. Even in its current deeply imperfect state. All this comes to us from belief in the Trinity.

This is the Trinity we find in the universe.

In Genesis: This is Father who brought the light out of the darkness, the Holy Spirit who hovered over the waters in the beginning, and the eternal Word who calls the universe into being.

This is the Trinity we meet in liturgy of the Eucharist: the Presence of the Son, by the power of the Spirit, fulfilling the Father's love.

This is Trinity we find whenever we pray: in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Son to the throne of the Father.

So by today's great feast we are encouraged again to discover again that our faith cannot be something we keep in a box in a corner of our lives marked 'childhood' or 'Sunday' or anything else. Our faith can't be something we acknowledge with our minds 'oh yes I believe in God', but it doesn't actually change anything. For so many people the doctrine of the Trinity is simply an *idea* in the *minds* of men, but it doesn't actually 'do' anything. But *we* are called and sent to show the world. To show the world that because of **who God is** - nothing and no-one can be left unchanged. Dr King said, 'love is the only creative, redemptive, transforming power in the universe'.

These are the questions we are asked today.

Even amidst the darkness of so many people's lives, amidst political chaos, and social disintegration - can we live the truth that the whole of the universe is flowing, not out of darkness and chaos, but out of the creative love of the Trinity?

Can we speak in our everyday chatter of a universe being constantly called to our destiny, the foretaste of which is this and every Eucharist?

By our speaking, living, loving, praying, **worshipping**: Can we live out that *transforming* grace of God - F, S and HS - who is desiring us now to join their dance of love, even in part, as we will join it fully for eternity?

These are the questions we are asked today? What might our answer be?

Glory, majesty, might and power be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, and now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.