

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024

# Trinity Sunday



## "Aspects of love"

Today is Trinity Sunday, and comes with a health warning! It might better be called "God Sunday", because really it is all about the different ways in which God is with us in our lives and in the world.

Lots of adults tie themselves in knots on Trinity Sunday, trying to explain God, rather than simply celebrating God and the different ways in which (s)he loves us! They forget that the Holy Trinity is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to wonder at.

During our service you will often hear the phrase "Father, Son and Holy Spirit". This is one way in which we explain the doctrine of the Trinity (you might want to Google that, if you would like to know more) but "Trinity" refers to three of something. "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" is the traditional way in which we describe the different ways in which God is God. We hear, week by week, about God and Jesus and last week we heard about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to guide and help the followers of Jesus. What the Trinity does is to join all three together.

So our Heavenly Father is sometimes referred to as the first person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, God the Son, as the second, and the Holy Spirit as the third. Another way of expressing the Trinity describes the roles (as we see them) of the three: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Other words may also be used to describe the way in which we see God as creator of all that is, as our Redeemer or Saviour, and as sustaining us, advocating for us, comforting and helping us – all these different things.

What it all boils down to really is that we are trying to describe the indescribable!

There was an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical in the late 1980's called "Aspects of Love" and I have yet to discover a better phrase to describe the different ways in which God creates, forgives and cares for us!

Today's Gospel reading (John 3: 1-17) describes how Nicodemus, himself a Jewish teacher, comes to Jesus under cover of night. Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about the Holy Spirit. Think back to the story of Passover last week, when the disciples

experienced the Spirit as wind. Can you remember another way in which the Holy Spirit appeared to them on that day?

There is a very special verse in our reading, which many Christians know by heart and which helps them. Perhaps you could learn it too?

Here it is: "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." John 3:16

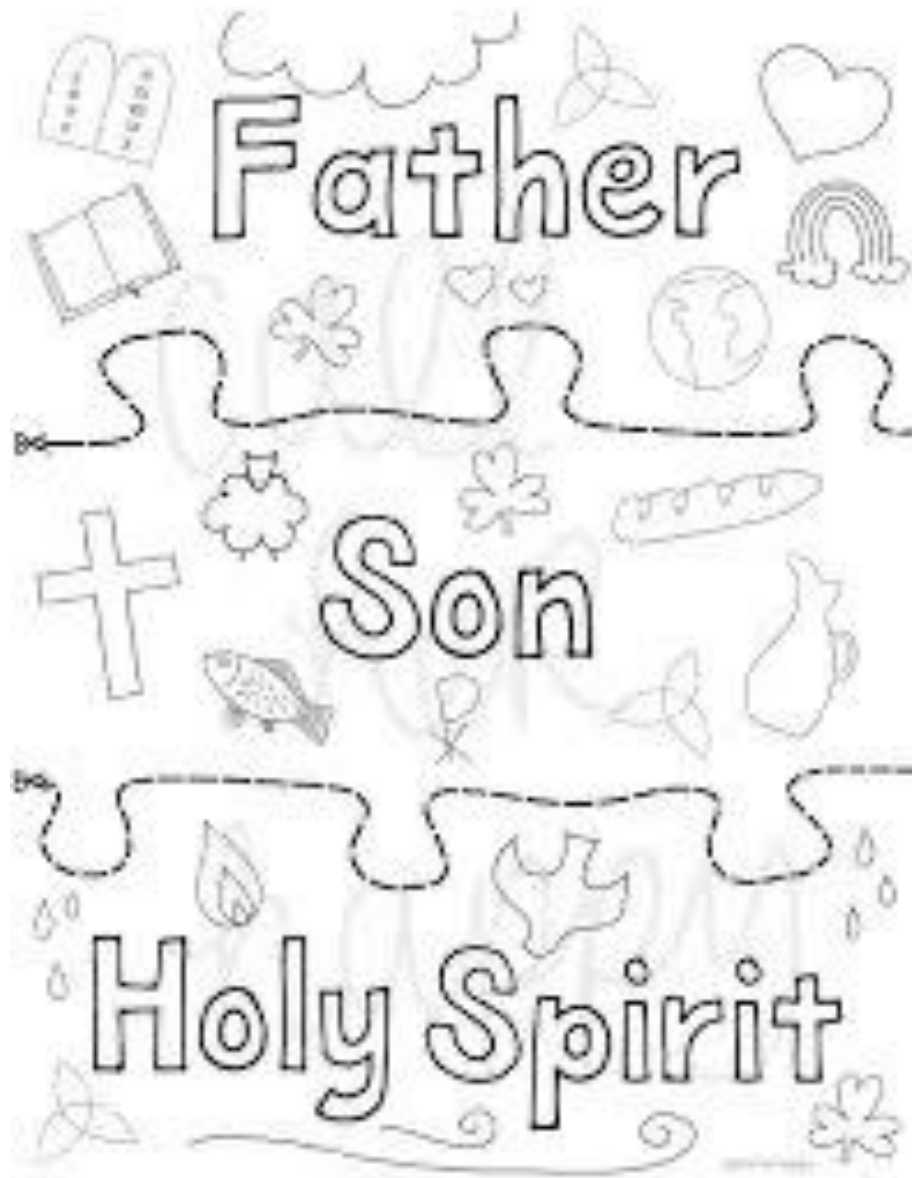
Today, we celebrate the God who is more than we can ever fully understand.

Remember that no-one knows everything there is to know about God. It is absolutely fine to wonder about God. In fact, it's very important that we do wonder!

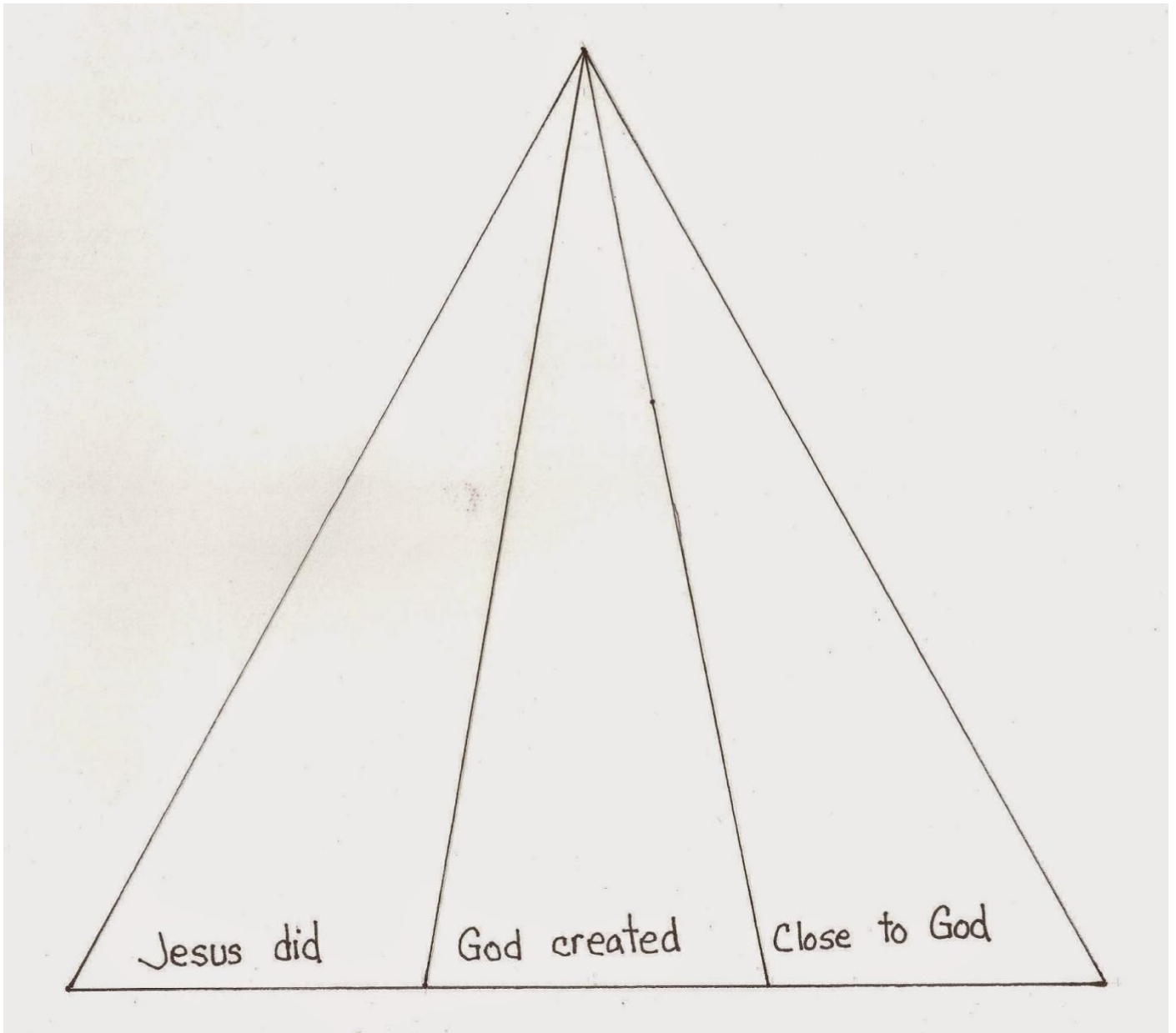
A prayer for this week:



Thank you God for loving us in different ways every day of our lives. Amen.



The triangle below has three sections. In the first section, can you write or draw something that Jesus did? In the second, can you describe or draw a favourite place in the world that God created? In the third section, can you describe, in words or pictures, a time when you felt very close to God? (We would say that, at times like this, we are filled with the Holy Spirit)



# The Mystery of the Trinity

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you." John 16:13-15 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 16:12-15



C C H U R Z M S P E A K E H A  
 T C E M J E C B F L Q K J E T  
 P O N G W V C T I U K I E A E  
 W M V L K C V E S P E W S R L  
 O E Q O Q B B Y I P R F L S L  
 Q S D R F E L M U V I F U T K  
 K H E I A L N T F S E R P J E  
 M W R F T O X R U G U H I K S  
 E C O Y H N T U C H T I A T X  
 R V Z G E G B T Q U A M A E E  
 Z O R V R S X H R L D C G G O  
 K M V E A W J T Z O K N O W N  
 N I W L N Q N T A J W F L U X  
 M N P U Y Q U Q F R L P A M O  
 T E C R X G E W C G U I D E P

TRUTH  
 MAKE  
 GLORIFY

FATHER  
 SPEAK  
 COMES

RECEIVE  
 BELONGS  
 TRUTH

KNOWN  
 SPIRIT  
 HEARS

GUIDE  
 MINE  
 TELL



Jesus and Nicodemus

*John 3*