

**2020-06-07 Sue Diggory**

**Trinity Sunday**

**Matthew 28 16 – 20**

Today is of course Trinity Sunday, when we celebrate our Feast of Title, but of course we are not able to celebrate in the usual way – no opportunity to hear a lesson read by John Warde our Patron, no ‘special guest president and preacher;’ last year we were very blessed to have Bishop Simon, Bishop of Tonbridge with us, and this year it should have been dear Father Owen – well, maybe next year, when I pray we will all be able to gather together inside Holy Trinity Church as part of the whatever our new normal will have become by then.

Yet we are still able to gather together as Holy Trinity Church, in our homes, for some of us in front of our screens as we Zoom together, or for others of us as we quietly follow our 2020 Trinity Sunday service alone or with our family.

Let’s turn our thoughts to our set Gospel reading for today. Just four verses, but verses that go to the very heart of how we are to live as Christians and a very good prompt for prayerful reflection as we move forward towards the ‘new normal’ of post lockdown life.

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

In just 35 words Jesus summarizes the whole of the gospel, weaving all of its threads together making it crystal clear to the disciples exactly what he was expecting them to do. Make disciples, baptize and teach. It sounds simple doesn’t it, but .... if only it were, and yet we know that none of us is called by God to anything that he isn’t willing and able to equip us to do.

Here we have a first glimpse of what would take the infant church several hundred years to agree on; several hundred years, many meetings and great councils to agree on, the Doctrine of the Trinity; here we have our first glimpse, as Jesus refers to baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

What exactly were the eleven were being commissioned to do and who in fact was commissioning them to do it!

*Then Jesus came to them and said “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me.”*

A new era had been ushered in; a ‘new normal’ was beginning as Jesus now had ALL authority, all authority that had been given to him the Son by the Father as the post Easter kingdom was established, the era that we live in, the era of the reign and rule of the king, Christ the king, the fully human and fully divine Son of the Father.

We often pray, as we will pray later in today’s service the Lord’s prayer with the petition ‘your kingdom come’ as we seek the growth of the kingdom in our world and in our lives; growth that comes as we open ourselves to follow the will of the Father, as we seek to model our lives on the life of the Son, the one who had been given ALL authority in heaven and earth. And given that we pray for the kingdom to come; then I suppose we shouldn’t be surprised that God calls us, inadequate though we may feel to be part of his plan, part of the answer to enabling his kingdom to grow and to flourish!

We are all called to join God in his mission to enable his Kingdom to come; we are called to GO, we are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, the one who has been given all authority, but also the one who is constantly interceding for us as he sits at the father’s side, and the one who with the Father has sent his Spirit to fill us and equip us, to be our enabler as we seek to play our little part in helping the kingdom to come.

If you are feeling more than a little uncomfortable with being called to GO, especially at a time when going anywhere physically is at best problematic and at best impossible, then as we move towards our ‘new normal’ take comfort from the final words that Jesus uttered that day *I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

This was his promise to the disciples of 2,000 years ago, and this is his promise to us in 2020, the promise that Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, the incarnate Son, who was sent into the world by the Father remains with us in the indwelling form of the Spirit, today and every day *to the end of the age.*

The Trinity is not easy to understand, it is part of the mystery that is God, the one who is the three, yet one, but perhaps that is the point, perhaps that is why Trinity Sunday is so important, especially as we think of it in the context of the disciples being sent out by Jesus in the words of the Great Commission, to make disciples, to teach and to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, in the name of The Trinity.

So today Trinity Sunday 2020, with all the uncertainties that currently surround us let’s take comfort knowing that if we accept Jesus’ commission to GO for him and to be part of his mission to his world, we will do so in the knowledge that he will be with us, now as we continue to stay at home and even more importantly as we move towards our ‘new normal’ as Holy Trinity Church, Crockham Hill.