

twelvebaskets

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TRINITY SUNDAY A

4th June 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening / centering prayers

God is relationship, and you are invited in this day.

God is connection, and the Spirit is reaching out for your hand this day.

God is love, and the heartbeat of the divine is for each and every one of us, this day, and always.

Come, by your Spirit, Lord God.

Hold a moment of stillness.

If it helps, light a candle, draw the curtains, or do something else that helps change the atmosphere in the room.

When you are ready, you might like to say these words out loud:

God who is here, God who is relationship,

I am here, I am listening,

Show me how I can learn more about you today.

I am here to worship.

Amen.

You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation that is comfortable to you.

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 – [Click for the reading](#)

Response to the reading

As [Rublev's famous painting of the Trinity](#) (sitting at a table, with a fourth seat just where we, the viewers of the painting must be) so graciously depicts: we are invited into a God who is relationship. That's the miracle of the Trinity – not some complex doctrine we can't get our head around, but a letter through the post that says: 'Hello, it's God. I'm inviting you to come and join us...'

The story of your own journey of faith, of the existence of the church community you are in today, of you and I being here at all, begins with Jesus' goodbye in Matthew 28, and has been handed down, through countless 'hellos' and 'goodbyes', until we get to today, in June 2023. Paul picked up the story for a while, but after his 'goodbye' to Corinth, he eventually had to say goodbye to all the disciples and churches he'd helped emerge. Across the last two millennia there have been thousands of people we don't know, who stepped into the relationship of faith, said hello and then - at some point - goodbye. And towards the end, a few people we could probably both name - who said hello to us. And maybe goodbye too. And now, here you are. And I'm here too. Hello.

I wonder what you need to say 'hello' to today.

What you need to say goodbye to.

How is God moving and shaping your relationship with God's Triune self?

What would 'relationship with God' look like for you today, this week, in the weeks and months ahead? Can you find words, or draw pictures to help describe it?

Spend a few moments in quiet prayer, writing and drawing. You might like to listen to some of the suggested hymns and songs below, if that helps.

As we journey along our walk with God, we come to see that there is always more to learn, more to know, more to feel, more to experience. The interplay of the three persons of God is inviting us into that holy dance again today.

Hymn:

82 STF – O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder - [YouTube](#)

707 STF – Make me a channel of your peace - [YouTube](#)

239 STF – Sent by the Lord am I - [YouTube](#)

Peace To You – Graham Kendrick (Twelvebaskets does not own the copyright to this video, please seek permission from the rights holders before using in public worship or online) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Suw9XBBzvDQ>

Blessing

Christ before, and Christ beside,
God all around me, and the Spirit at work in and through me,
May I notice the relationship that is God with me, and take that relational God into the relationships and situations I will find myself in this week.
Show me how to love with your divine love, O God.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 5th June

- Think about one of your relationships today. Perhaps with a family member or a close friend. Pray about that person, and how they are 'in relationship' with you.
- Pray that they might know something of God's presence in their lives this day.

Tuesday 6th June

- Find something in your house that is symbolic of your faith. Hold it. Give thanks for the journey of faith that God has taken you on in your lifetime. Ask for God to guide you on your onwards journey.

Wednesday 7th June

- Breathe deeply, in and out, for a whole minute (it is worth timing yourself to make sure you commit to a minute – which can feel like a long time!). Concentrate on your breath. Feel the way your lungs fill with air, and empty out again.
- As you feel the flow of energy, in and out, notice how connected you are to the world around you. How God is at work in all things.
- Give thanks for this sense of connection, this prayer.

Thursday 8th June

- Pour a glass of water. Think about the things you do that get in the way of your relationship with God. You might think it muddies the water of your life, but God forgives us for all these things, and offers us living water. Drink some of the water and give thanks for the way God reaches out to you with love and forgiveness.

Friday 9th June

- Draw a picture of your local church. Include on the picture all the ways you see God at work, and all the things you want to ask God to work in. Pray about it.

Saturday 10th June

- The weekend is here, and it is time to change the rhythm a little.
- Find a piece of music that you wouldn't normally listen to, perhaps from a genre you are not particularly familiar with.
- Amongst all that is unfamiliar about the rhythm, the tempo, the instruments, the tone, listen for the surprising voice of God. Can you hear the divine speaking to you?
- Pray about any emotions or responses you notice in yourself.