



Banyule Network of Uniting Churches

Sunday 7 June 2020

Trinity Sunday

To Live, Learn and Love as Children

Matthew 28:16-20 (cf. Ps 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13)

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Good morning welcome to the sermon at a time of worship this morning to all at Banyule network of uniting churches. A very warm good morning – my name is Dietrich for those of you who don't know me and I am a CPE student this year.

By the time you're watching this on Sunday the 7th of June it will be in the morning and it will be Trinity Sunday according to the liturgical calendar that you follow well I will be preaching this is a pre-recorded sermon. This morning, I will be speaking on the Trinity but specifically how the three passages that are in the lectionary can reshape our thinking of what it means to be a community for the Trinity is essentially a community of many things it is without going into the complexities.

Before I start I would like to mention there are a lot of things going on in the world right now that make it seem like a dark place to live. Such as the protests in the USA and of course the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. With all these, there is a sense of uncertainty and ease anxiety disunity.

My first reflection is that in Pentecost the time where the disciples gathered which we celebrated last week in the liturgical calendar. It was a unique turning point it was then in the first Pentecost in Acts 2 but you could say it is now for us in 2020 the Holy Spirit came in power. The Holy Spirit came to bring a power to give birth to the Church, and to kickstart her mission by putting into motion a series of events that are nothing short of amazing.

At Pentecost it was the first disciples from all around the nations that gathered in Jerusalem which were gathered in the upper room together when the Holy Spirit came upon them. We read that tongues like fire engulfed them as you may remember. They were gifted with the ability to speak in their own language but in tongues which is languages for other people to understand.

The Holy Spirit was given during this time to essentially start the mission that Jesus left which we will look at in Matthew 28 the Great Commission and so during this time my first reflection is the Holy Spirit one of the three persons and the Trinity has been given just as he came many many years ago in Pentecost is given for us now and we needed him because essentially we are longing for that presence in this dark time.

Like a fire as I was reflecting symbolically it can be a terrifying thing you've seen the pictures of cars burning and obviously in Australia this year we've had a tough season with bush fires but if you ever see the kind of a small flame and a candle it can be calming it can be a presence and it can be a reminder God has given us Himself as a presence and the church is gathered with many nations in contrast to what we're seeing in the world outside of us we seem division more than we ever had the alliance of aggressive division and opportunity and racism something that is a painful thing there especially if you're like me it's a common ethnic background you've grown up in Australia and you've experienced the joys and the hope and the blessings of what it means to live harmonious with other people groups this week we have been reminded kind of even confronted by the stark reality of racism and so again in Trinity Sunday may I give you this reflection that God has given us a hope in the church that the church of all people our peoples united of all different tribes and tongues indeed Jew and Gentile themselves were at war and war more than any other group throughout history hating each other the Christ has come to redeem and to unite but what does Trinity Sunday mean for us this Sunday?

That's an important reflection. I've decided to use all three passages there in the lectionary they're not long so I do encourage you to go and have a look at them yourself if you can but I will do a quick recap on what I think these reflections mean for us today Psalm 8 and in one of the verses from the lips of infants you have ordained praise from the lips of infants you have ordained praise well we want 1 Corinthians 13 the theme of this infant and child continues with the contrast of knowing in part and knowing in full verse 11 of chapter 13 in Paul's letter writes want of the child I thought like a child I reasoned like a child and when I became man when I grew up I put these childish things away so in my reflection for us today and the third passage is the Great Commission itself.

I realize that we need to learn to live love learn like children I know the 1 Corinthians passage suggests that we should put our way our childish ways but that's in the context of growing up. Jesus does mention in regard to faith that we should come to him as children like children in our faith and that is what a child represents my reflection for us today is that we've kind of been exposed to a lot of evil and the thing with children is that there is a sense of innocence and

purity and curiosity if you've ever met a child you know they non-stop ask the question "why, why, why?"

Well, three things to live like children means to come in faith to go to God and realize that He is God and we are to be as innocent and trust him we're to learn like him because we are at the end of the day disciples and in the Great Commission.

Jesus has commissioned us to continue as disciples and to go and to make disciples the way we're meant to do that is not a little you know pretend and project that we know everything but actually to be like a child humble and teachable and finally especially more than ever we need to love as children.

Many of us maybe seasoned in your faith and you maybe even in a stage of life where you are towards the end don't let this stop you from loving like a child you know children are innocent they trust people they make friends they love their mom and they dad and they just love life and again they have this simplicity about them what might I mean to love like a child during this pandemic and now, with the racial division I leave that with you to think and to reflect and I make that my prayer that we can continue to be this church that is united on this Trinity Sunday and grow in our faith and see things that only Jesus can reveal for us.

Son and the holy Spirit. Amen