

Readings for the week

Today	Isaiah 40 v 12 – 17 & v 27 - 31 Matthew 28 v 16 – 20
Monday	Luke 10 v 25 - 37
Tuesday	Luke 10 v 38 – 42
Wednesday	Luke 11 v 1 – 13
Thursday	Acts 4 v 32 – 37
Friday	Luke 11 v 29 - 36
Saturday	Luke 11 v 27 - 54



Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team would like you to pray for the following topics:

1. *Pray for all those involved in making decisions about reopening their schools, that they be enabled to keep returning staff and pupils safe.*
2. *Pray for all children still at home and parents who are home-educating, that it may be a positive and enriching experience despite the difficulties.*

An appeal has been received from the Church Mission Society for additional funding to support our Mission partner Steven Hatch who spoke to us at the Town Hall in March. If anyone would like more information and details how to make a donation please contact Ruth on rjprocter@talktalk.net

'Zoom Prayer Gatherings' each Tuesday at 12:00 noon.

If you have not previously taken part and wish to in the future, please email Adrian to receive your invitation to join the weekly Prayer Gatherings. If you are new to using Zoom, Adrian can also send you instructions on how to access Zoom.

You can still send the Administrator your photographs to be included at the end of the Sunday service which appears on the Alcester Myster website each Sunday.



Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on Facebook? Find details and pictures of events at www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster If you would like to submit event notices or photos to be published on the page then please email administrator@alcesterminster.org



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches

Sunday 07 June 2020

Trinity Sunday *White*

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28 v 19

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants
grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the
eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine
majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended
from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the
knowledge of your
truth,
and draw us more deeply
into the mystery of
your love,
that we may truly worship
you,
Father, Son and Holy
Spirit,
one God, now and for
ever.

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Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Trinity Sunday: Thought for the Day' presented by Pat.

Reading: Matthew 28: 18-20

Jesus said: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

New International Version (NIV)

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Thought for the Day

Well last week we celebrated the coming of the Super-empowering Holy Spirit to the disciples – then and now!

This week we celebrate the holy Trinity.

Our reading from Matthew goes back 10 days to when Jesus gave his last instructions to his disciples – then and now – before he went back up to heaven. I don't know about you, but I find them a bit daunting!

We so easily pray in the Lord's Prayer, 'Thy kingdom come', but it feels quite different when we realise that the disciples –then and now- i.e.: us the Church, are charged with bringing it into being. Whenever Jesus said 'come' he invariably followed it by 'go'. Oh, how we wish he had said, sit in your usual pews, say all the right words.....but no, he tells us to go out into our communities and tell people about him, making sure we Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Which brings us to Trinity. How come we worship one God, yet there seem to be three persons here? Persons not things! I could write pages and you would fall asleep, but none of us would be very much wiser. It is and will remain one of the great mysteries about our God. A modern perspective I find helpful is to be found in the DVD of the book 'The Shack' by Paul Young. And various theologians, echoing the early Christian fathers, would have us think of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in our lives in a perpetual dance of mutuality, weaving together as they comfort and support us with all that we need as we trust our lives to Him; and the nearer we draw to God, the more we are drawn into that dance, into that welcoming and beautiful relationship that is God.

In John chapter 14 we read Jesus saying, "I am in my Father and you are in me and I am in you," and he promises that when the Holy Spirit comes He will teach us and help us to understand all things. I have certainly found that the more I get to know God, the less I need to analyse it all: the three-in-one-ness of God is something I just know in my knower - it can remain a mystery! I pray it might be the same for you!

Our world is full of insecurities and confusion: many people have lost their sense of identity; the shape of our nose, the name we take, the way we live, our nationality, even our gender - are all matters of choice. There are no absolutes to keep us grounded. Some may think that is a good thing. But Covid 19 has brought fear and panic because we do not know who to turn to, or where is our future or if there is any hope.

But God is our Father, he has made space for us in his world and in his heart and when we come to him he calls us his beloved children. The Bible tells us that nothing can ever separate us from his love.

I know that He came as Jesus, to show us what God is like, and whatever sins we bear he has already taken upon himself, so that when we confess them, we can be set free and have peace with ourselves and with God.

I know that when we trust in Him, his Holy Spirit comes to live with us and within us all the time, making us more like Jesus day by day, helping us to understand, healing our hurts, guiding us in our lives, and giving us strength and wisdom to do the work he has prepared for us to do. Most of all He gives us the security of knowing our identity as an infinitely loved child of God.

The prophet Zephaniah tells us:

*The Lord your God is with **you**,
He is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in **you**,
He will quiet **you** with his love,
He will rejoice over **you** with singing.*

Why would we not want to go into the world and tell about our amazing God, who longs for everyone to know him, too!

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord that you know me completely. Please work in my heart that I will have the boldness to step out and partner you in bringing in your Kingdom of hope, of peace, of love and of joy. Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name,
in earth and sky and sea:
Holy, Holy, Holy! -
merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

