

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 30th May 2021, Trinity Sunday

Old Testament: Isaiah 6: 1-8

Psalm: Psalm 29

New Testament: Romans 8: 12-17

Gospel: John 3: 1-17

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Chris Luckraft

Throughout history mankind has built on the experiences and understandings of previous generations. Without the work of Copernicus, Newton would not have been able to formulate the laws of gravity; without Newton, mankind would not have been able to travel into space.

In the same way our understanding of the nature of God has developed and changed over the centuries. The God who turned Lot's wife into salt seems totally different from the God who raised Lazarus from the dead. Has God changed? We say that God is unchanging but the evidence appears to contradict this. But the truth is that our understanding of God has changed or rather developed. Through the pages of the Old Testament can be traced the development of understanding from one god among many, to the idea of only one god; from individual gods confined to trees or the sun or any other object, to something that is totally different from the created order.

But it doesn't stop there. In the Old Testament, God is often seen as a vengeful God, one who punishes the slightest wrong doing. A gradual dawning that God was more than that happened over the centuries - each generation building on the understandings of its predecessors. Until the ultimate revelation of Jesus Christ to show that God is love. But even that is not the end - our understanding has developed even further into God as Trinity - three persons in one God.

Too often we confine God to the pages of the bible and ignore the developing insights and understandings of successive generations - the ongoing movement of the Holy Spirit.

Collect for Trinity Sunday

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.

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



