

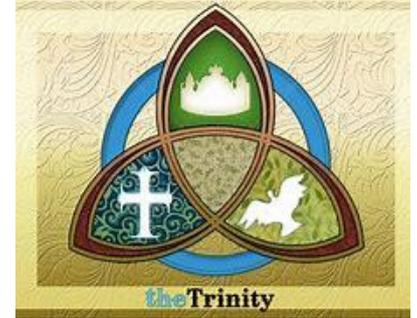
Sunday 7th June TRINITY SUNDAY

Read Matthew 28.16-20

Reflection

Revd Phil Cudmore (Curate)

But some doubted! In the very presence of Jesus, surely not – yet there it is recorded. And why, perhaps Acts 1, verse 6 which covers the same event has the answer “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel”? Are you going to wave your hand and sort it all out now? How did Jesus answer – yes I have all authority, but now I am sending YOU!



What is their, and through them down the centuries, our task? To make disciples, baptise and teach obedience – to everything Jesus taught. Small wonder they doubted, but we thought you were going to do it all – you want us to do that. But, to enable them, he promises “*I am with you always, to the end of the age.*”

And us, how do we feel after a week like this, do we have doubts, do we too just want God to come and sort it all out? The hideous murder of George Floyd by those charged to protect him and his own society, the continuing agony of the McCann family and what is revealed about the depths to which humanity can sink through those events. Our continuing restrictions, when can we meet together again as the people of Jesus and the unseen yet continually felt threat from coronavirus/covid 19 – will this never end?

And yet, brave and committed people, using their God given talents, accept the risks, the threat, and work every day to keep our common life, especially that of the isolated and vulnerable going. Labouring to heal the stricken, to test and study the virus, to find an answer – a vaccine, a cure! Our prayer must surely be for all of them and the success of their endeavours. But our prayer must also be for our human condition, and the promised triumph of the kingdom of God within it – our only hope of an end to evil and the incomprehensible madness that has occurred down the centuries and that we have witnessed again lately.

This brings us back to our own commission as disciples of Jesus. Jesus in whom the fullness of God dwells and who we can know through his word and the Spirit sent to us. The Trinity we recall especially this day. We might, like the psalmist in psalm 55 want to pray ‘...O for the wings of a dove! I would fly far away and be at rest; truly I would flee far away...’ But that was not the way of either Jesus or his disciples. We know Jesus does not excuse us from trouble, but promises to stand with us throughout – just as we are to stand with those who suffer now.

How do we go about this? A word of warning here, I do not believe that God will be impressed by those who simply put themselves centre stage and flaunt a bible, prayer book or any other symbols of our faith. Not because those things in themselves might not be good, but because as the prophet Jeremiah prophesied (Ch31, v33-34), God has said he will “...put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people..”. In Jesus that prophecy has proved true!

The way, truth and life of Jesus is not to be carried as a talisman, but to take root and be lived within us. If that is true of us, then we have accepted our commission as the disciples did and Jesus will never leave us, just as he promised. We then can be confident as Psalm 23 puts it, ‘...Yea, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, thou art with me...’

Doubts, well it might have been a grim week of news, but whatever we face – we know Jesus has already triumphed. We know the task that has come down to each of us, in our own circumstances, to be his disciples. We are to learn from him and live for him. We do this so that we can spread that discipleship, that love and truth, to those around us – and stand with those who struggle now. Most of all however, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, whatever we go through or do without at the moment, as his disciples – we know that he **is** with us. His Spirit **is** with us now and will be forever – just as he promised. May that truth take firm hold in, and be shared by, each of us this day and always. Amen.

