

A Song to sing or read: We Are Called

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord.
We are called to be light for the kingdom
To live in the freedom of the city of God!

Chorus

*We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another. To walk humbly with God.*

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so all hatred and blindness will be no more! **Chorus**

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love! **Chorus**

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Closing Prayer

Through Your efforts, blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have been redeemed, created, and sanctified. Although we have never understood the fullness of the Trinity, You have granted us new life and have declared us innocent through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. For this we worship You in humble adoration. Keep us in the faith until we join the elect around Your glorious throne. Make us today, a witness for You in every moment. Show us today, the way to better serve You. We ask this in Your name, You who live and rule, ever one God, through all eternity. **Amen**

Thank you to Dan Eaton for preparing today's reflection.



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Church in a Bag
Sunday 7 June
Dubbo Uniting Church

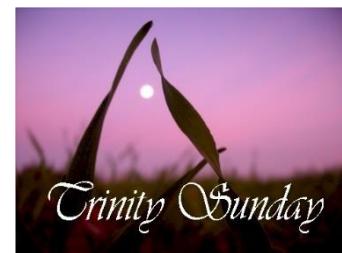


A Gathering

Blessed are you, O God our Redeemer, as we continue to celebrate Christ's risen presence among us. We open up to you through the messages of scripture, song and prayer that we share today. Speak to us as we journey along life's way, meet us as we fellowship individually and in virtual circumstances, and so move in us that we may claim all your promises as our own.

O Creator God, listen to our hearts and inspire our minds a life renewed for the sake of Your son, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit who is at work within us. **Amen**

Preparation



Today is Trinity Sunday. This is a day that has been celebrated in the Christian Church since the 10th century. It is on this occasion that ministers around the world address themselves to the subject of the Triune God.

To describe the tip of the iceberg above the water is not to describe the entire iceberg. As Christians we can affirm the Trinity, as a way of describing what we know about Him. When you know both the love and power of God are real and they are true: not because you have run up against God's authority and fear to do otherwise, nor even because you have seen His love expressed and feel attracted to that in return. For to know God is to have chosen for yourself to live like that, simply because the spirit of it has become your own. There must be the discovery of the spirit of it all somewhere living within you.

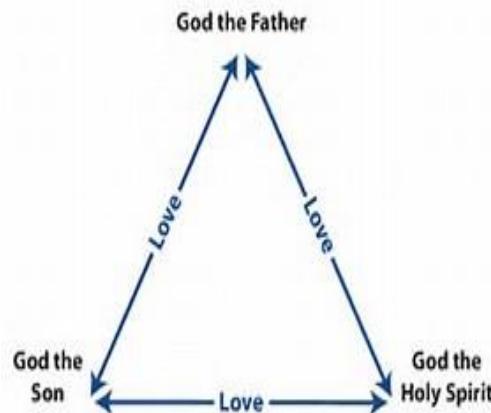
First reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11–13

Reflection

Are you familiar with the “Fire Triangle” like the one shown here? The very existence of fire as a form of energy that is - a controlled combustion - the single most important element in our very survival as a life form. We use it for everything from cooking our veggies, to keeping us warm at night and for keeping away the night’s terrors. More than 90% of our manufacturing processes use combustion in some form. Fire promoted us from tree dwellers to our very presence in sharing this Church in a Bag today.



The primary purpose of a Fire Triangle is that fire cannot exist without all three elements of **fuel**, **air** and **heat**. Take any one of these elements away and there is no fire.



So, too, is the Trinity Triangle. Here we see at the apex, the God our Creator, known to us and to nearly all human cultures around the world. The status of God is above all and, by one definition, the ‘very Air we breathe’. There is a link to him. An agent. The go-between of Jesus, who has given our instructions in life. The **fuel** to burn for God’s

mission in this world. And to provide that energy (that spark of **heat** if you will) the Holy Spirit is given in us to create the passionate energy needed for purposes of acting outwardly, openly and actively for God.

Oh, and did you notice that the connection that holds the Triangle together is **love**?

Second reading: Matthew 28:16–20

Reflection: The Great Commission

With a reference to the earlier reflection on the requirements of fire, it must be pointed out that fire by itself *and not put to use*, is basically useless. So, too, is our connection to God. It may be not enough “to burn with God’s Spirit” if that is all we do. Power, by itself, is useless: unless it is used for the purpose to which it is intended.

Jesus Christ used the power of **love** to bind us together. If we want God’s power in our lives, then we must have his kind of power in our hearts; and with this power set to accomplish His purpose. “Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples.” Jesus didn’t say and mean this only for the *first responders* at Galilee.

There is the recollection of an old country minister who spoke at a little, white-framed country church: so small that if the bell tower rope wasn’t tied back, you hit it as you entered the door. But what was really appealing to those who exited by that same door was the clearly painted sign over it that read, “You are Entering a Mission Field”. Yes, this Commission is **on going** and **out going**. Remember He said, “Go to all the peoples everywhere”.

Isolated as we are by the presence of Covid-19, we can yet call on that inner ember of heat from our connection with God, poised and ready to go out again in the mission field, to say and show the Good News; to provide strength to the weakened; safety to the abused; nourishment and clothing to the starving; calmness to the worried and scared; and unjudging compassion and love to all who seek some betterment. What a great commission that is, for sure.

