

Trinity Sunday 2021 Year B

Deuteronomy 4.32-40, Romans 8.14-17, Matthew 28. 16-20

A Trinity of Ps: Purpose pattern and power

Last week at Pentecost we thought how the church was to be Missionary on the one hand but also to reflect the nature of God in its life and structure – to reflect the economy of God. Today Trinity we reflect on that very nature of God three persons and one substance – the intensity of communion between Father Son and Spirit as one God into which we are called. The whole message of St.Paul's letter to the Romans is being called into Gods life. But of course the purpose is not for our own sake alone.

Purpose is one of three Ps we might consider today the other two being Power and Pattern. They move us from getting bogged down in theological quagmire into practicality. And see how practical our readings are today. The Lord God is Lord of Heaven and earth and following his commandments shows the ways of God in earth. Made in the image of God the Spirit calls us to share Christ's life on earth and therefore in Heaven, and then from the risen Christ - go out and help all the nations to follow this way of reconciling heaven and earth; Creator and creation. Many practical things flow from it and many challenges and sufferings are to be encountered on the way.

William Wilberforce, was a practical Christian and in his campaign to abolish the slave trade and slavery had the Trinity as his guide. **Power** to do the right thing would come from the Spirit, **purpose** must always be God's purpose – rooted in creative love, and the **pattern** of achieving these things must be Christ's pattern – the way of sacrificial humble love.

The doctrine of the Trinity is the central mystery faith and life. It is number one as I have said before in the BCP articles of faith. The comprehension of one true God without body, parts or passions is hard for us who are consumed by our bodies parts and passions. St.Patrick had his clover leaf to explain, St.Augustine had his sun, heat and light, I have often used water ice and steam with children getting wetter and wetter trying to reserve their ice blocks. The analogies and metaphors all fall short in conveying the cosmic oneness of God.

No wonder that sometimes we can think of the Trinity as doctrinal stuff rather than missional. But God does not create for the sake of doctrine but for love beauty and the reflection of himself. Christ seeks to restore this and the Spirit is the power to do so. Purpose pattern and power are to be rooted in our lives and reflected in the church to make practical difference in a world that needs actions in accordance with Gods nature not empty words.

In a moment we will do the simple practical thing of taking bread and wine as commanded by Christ. The actions of the Eucharist taking blessing breaking and sharing that the work of the incarnation – the practical work of making Gods purpose so, is at the heart of our faith – it is why Corpus Christi is celebrated the Thursday after Trinity. The communion cup by which we partake in the life of the Trinity through Christ is often at the heart of Icons of the trinity. This is our space and place our purpose our pattern and the source of power for being disciples. It is a simple practical central action that is the well spring and focus for everything else we do – or should do.

It is not so much what God is metaphysically that matters it is what he does that changes the world beginning with us. He enters into our life that we might enter into his. For our sake but not just for our sake for the sake of all – always Gods purpose, Christ's pattern of sacrificial humility and confident in the power of the Spirit. These are the marks of a church that reflects God's Trinitarian nature and quite appropriate as we have our annual meeting and refreshing ourselves in a practical mindset based on Gods purpose pattern and power as shown in Father Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.