

## Newsletter 30th May 2021

### Family Service

Sunday's Readings     John 3:1-17  
                                      Ezekiel 36:24-28

Ps. Andrew Everson will bring us the word this week.

### Some Prayers of the people

- Pray for the Barnabas Foundation who work around the world helping persecuted Christians in countries where many are killed for their faith.
- Please continue to pray for those in our community who are battling chronic health issues. Pray that God will supply the strength, comfort, and resources that they need.
- Give thanks for the freedom to worship as we do. Remembering that there are many Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith we ask for their protection and for courage and perseverance. We pray for the Religious Freedom weekend on June 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> for all churches to unite in prayer for the persecuted around the world. See the link:  
[www.religiousfreedomweekend.com.au](http://www.religiousfreedomweekend.com.au)
- Please pray for people around the world struggling with covid 19 and the hardship and stress the restrictions are causing. Pray for good political and medical leadership as the world looks for an end to this pandemic.

### ➤ Prayer Chain

The church has a prayer chain for those who need prayer during an emergency or crisis, the Initial contact people are Julie Wylie (87623812) or Julie & Kevin Cooke (87620732, 0428620733). Please call the contact person and your prayer request will be forwarded on. We encourage you to share any answer to prayer that you feel you can to the prayer chain as encouragement to them.

## Notices

**Roster:** The next roster is being prepared, please let Oriel know of any dates you are not available or if you can help in any way. There are many ways in which we can serve one another in the family of Christ.

**End of month luncheon** 30<sup>th</sup> May at 12noon at “Billy Mac’s”, join in for a nice meal and fellowship.

**“Tithe a tin Pray a packet”:** Thank you to all who generously give to the church pantry cupboard. Along with the Naracoorte Community Care network who generously give vouchers and donations we assist people who are struggling. NCCN have provided a list of suggestions for those who may be wondering how to help. Bless you for your care and generosity.

**Update Your details:** please let the office know if there any changes to details that we may not have, thank you.

**Name tags:** As our congregation is growing, please wear your name tags as this will help people get to know each other and also help with remembering names. Please let Lois or Teresa know if anyone requires a name tag.

## **Midweek Bible reading(s)**

This coming Sunday, 30 May 2021 is Trinity Sunday. It’s a time when the Church recalls its understanding of God as three persons in one God. Some find this a difficult concept, and at one level it certainly is – how is it possible to think of God as three persons? Doesn’t that contradict the idea that God is the only god? Deuteronomy 6:4 reads “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one”. And Christians agree, the Lord our God is certainly one, but he is also three. And this Christian understanding of just who God is, in the persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enables a powerful understanding of who we are as human beings in relationship with a loving God.

God as Trinity is a dynamic and relational concept. That is, we see it working in Scripture and in our experience of God. We don’t have to understand how a car works to drive it. We just need to trust the car will respond surely and predicably when we ride in it.

The great strength of the Trinity as a description of God is that it is easy to see how all loving relationships have their source in God himself. God is himself the definition of love in action as love motivates the actions of the Father, Son (and the Spirit)

For example: John 5:19-27

<sup>19</sup> Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him

even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. <sup>21</sup> For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him.

<sup>24</sup> “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. <sup>25</sup> Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

The Father gives the Son – love, honour, and life, entrusts him with judgement, with the ability to give life to others, and all the actions of the Son imitate and confirm the actions of the Father.

But just as importantly, the Son loves the Father. It is a reciprocal relationship. The Son loves and obeys the Father. In John 14:31 Jesus tells us: “...but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father...”

The wonder of the Trinity is that God is not a remote, self-sufficient god that we cannot approach. God the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, draws us up into fellowship with God. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father, to the Son and by the Son to us. The Holy Spirit is God living in us. This is what Jesus says in John 14: 15 –

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.... “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid”.

God as Trinity is open and welcoming. God acts through the Son, sent by the Father to re-establish relationship with us. In Paul’s words we are “adopted” into God’s family. God himself does this through the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity.

Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit of God, prays to the Father, and obeys the Father who loves him. That’s the how the Father/ Son relationship works.

And similarly, we pray to the Father who loves us, in the name of the Son, and in the power of the Spirit.

If you think in pictures maybe this can be seen more easily in a diagram. Think of the red lines as establishing loving relationship through the Holy Spirit.

