



## All Age Service – Trinity Sunday 7 June

### “The ordinary and the extraordinary”

#### The Seven

##### Welcome and prayer

This week we begin a series looking at characters in the book of the Acts of the Apostles as they responded to the Holy Spirit as poured out on Pentecost. We begin today, on Trinity Sunday, with ‘The Seven’ from Acts 6, a community working together in love. Thank you to Nick Murza from St Peter’s for producing this lovely drawing of The Seven.



##### The Greeting

We meet in the name of God:

**All: God the Father, God the Son,  
God the Spirit: God is one.**

##### Hymn     237 Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!  
early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! – merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! – though the darkness hide Thee,  
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!  
all Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea:  
Holy, holy, holy! – merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## Trinity Sketch

### Confession

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.'

We long for the fire of God's cleansing to touch our unclean lips,  
for our guilt to be removed and our sin wiped out.

So we meet Father, Son and Holy Spirit with repentance in our hearts.

*Write on a piece of paper something you wish to ask God to forgive you for. Be specific. Hold on to it as you say this confession*

**All: Father, we have sinned against heaven,  
against you and against our fellow humans.  
We are not worthy to be called your children and are sorry.  
We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself  
as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our  
Saviour, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*As I say the absolution below tear up the paper into tiny pieces and throw it in the bin as a sign that God had forgiven you.*

### Absolution

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son  
and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.

**All Amen.**

### Collect    *Trinity Sunday*

Holy God, faithful and unchanging:  
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,  
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,  
that we may truly worship you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen**

### Numbers Quiz

1. How many dwarves did Snow White meet?
2. How many Billy Goats Gruff were there?
3. What number in the bible represents completeness and perfection?
4. At what hour on the Jewish clock did darkness begin to cover the land when Jesus was crucified?
5. In what year did Chicago win an Oscar for best picture?
6. How many Seas of Rhye did the rock band Queen sing about?

## Song      **My lighthouse**

In my wrestling and in my doubts  
In my failures You won't walk out  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea (x2)

In the silence, You won't let go  
In the questions, Your truth will hold  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea (x2)

*My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness.*

*I will follow You*

*My lighthouse, my lighthouse I will trust the promise.*

*You will carry me safe to shore.*

*Safe to shore (x3)*

I won't fear what tomorrow brings  
With each morning I'll rise and sing  
My God's love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea (x2)

*My lighthouse . . .*

Fire before us, you're the brightest,  
You will lead us through the storms (x4)

*My lighthouse . . .*

Words and Music: Rend Collective Copyright 2013 Thankyou Music

## Bible reading

[Acts 6:1-7](#)

<sup>1</sup>In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup>So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup>and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup>This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup>They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Sermon ~ Robin Jones – Children's and Families Minister

## **The Choosing of the Seven**

Good morning everyone.

Last week we celebrated Pentecost, which is often considered to be the birth of the Church, when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, allowing them to speak in different languages and empowering them to share the good news of Jesus. This caused huge numbers of people to turn to God and to be baptised. But even after this one big, important day, the church continued to grow.

But as we continue reading through the book of Acts, we see the church continuing to grow in number. In these early days we see a wonderful picture portrayed of what that early church looked like, full of gathering together, praying together, sharing resources and worshipping God.

But we don't have to read much further before we see conflict arise. Like in our reading today in Acts 6

But before we dig into this story, I wanted to challenge you all to a quiz! I'm going to show you a picture of a character who managed to achieve something really great, and I want you to see if you can work out what or who enabled them to achieve, survive or escape.

- Alfredo Linguini – great chef – helped by Remy the rat
- Simba – survives – helped by Timon and Pumba
- Doctor Who – escapes – Sonic screwdriver

So, we can see that all of these characters were helped and empowered to do great things, by something or someone else. As Christians, we believe that the Holy Spirit, that came at Pentecost, is what helps and enables us to go out and to do wonderful things to serve God.

So, over the coming weeks we're going to be looking at lots of different people in the early church. Ordinary people who were empowered by the Spirit to do extraordinary things and some who unfortunately failed to be fully committed to Christ.

But today, we're not just looking at one individual, but 7.

Our story began with a disagreement. As the early church had begun to grow, there were lots of different people all gathering and living together. But the Hellenist Jews felt that their widows were not getting a fair share of the food that was distributed each day. So this disagreement is brought to the attention of the 12 apostles and they need to figure out a solution.

So, what options do we have?

Well the first solution the apostles appear to consider, is how they themselves can fix the problem. Can they be the ones in charge of distributing the food, and making sure everyone gets a fair share? But they quickly come to the conclusion that this is not a good solution. The apostles know that they have been called by God to preach and to share the good news of God with those around them. They know that it would not be right for them to neglect this task in order to do something else.

It's worth noting here that the passage does not say that this ministry of preaching was any more important than distributing food. It is just that this is not the task that God has given the apostles to do. We all have our own gifts and skills, and tasks that God has called us to do – we should focus upon these tasks rather than becoming distracted by other tasks we see around us. Because we know that we are part of the body of Christ and there is a role for each person.

It's also worth saying, that just because the apostles were the leaders of the church, this also doesn't mean that their job was the most important. Each part of the body needs all the other parts in order to function properly – the early church needed both preachers and distributors of food, in order to function well.

So, we can see that this job of distributing food is vitally important. But the apostles cannot do it themselves. So, they need to appoint other people to complete this job.

But, this wasn't a simple task of writing a notice for notes and news, and making an announcement in the Sunday Service asking for people to volunteer. This role was vitally important and they apostles needed to choose the right people for the job.

So, who should they choose?

Should they choose the person who is controlled by a friendly rat upon their head?

Or has a Meerkat and Warthog as friends?

Or has a sonic screwdriver to get them out of any situation?

I'm sure it won't surprise you that the disciples didn't use any of these techniques to choose who would be in charge of distributing food. They chose people who were "full of the Spirit and wisdom". So, they chose 7 people: Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas. 7 people who were full of the spirit and wisdom. This was the qualification that they needed for the job.

Now, we don't know much about some of these people and what happened to them afterwards, but we do know a little about some of them. Stephen went out and told people all about Jesus and was killed for his steadfast faith. Others planted churches and shared the gospel far and wide.

They were just ordinary people, but they were full of the Spirit and wisdom. And it was this Spirit that enabled them to both distribute food and care for those in need, as well as to preach and plant churches and go out into the world. The early church did not spread all across the world and still be with us today because the apostles were doing all the work, but because ordinary people, such as you and me, were empowered by the Spirit to serve, to preach, to plant churches, to distribute food, to care for the sick, and to serve God in whichever way God had called them.

In the way the trinity works in unity together we to need to form a perfect community where there is no one more important than another, but we all serve just where God puts us 'full of Spirit and wisdom, empowered by the spirit to serve, whether that be distribution food, preaching and praying, caring for the sick or planting churches we are God people who should work in unity, powered by the Holy Spirit to grow God's Kingdom.

## Hymn/Song    **859 I want to serve the purpose of God**

I want to serve the purpose of God in my generation.  
I want to serve the purpose of God while I am alive.  
I want to give my life for something that'll last for ever:  
Oh, I delight, I delight to do Your will.

*What is on Your heart? Show me what to do.*

*Let me know Your will, and I will follow You.*

*What is on Your heart . . .*

I want to build with silver and gold in my generation.  
I want to build with silver and gold while I am alive.  
I want to give my life for something that'll last for ever:  
Oh, I delight, I delight to do Your will.

*What is on Your heart . . .*

I want to see the kingdom of God in my generation.  
I want to see the kingdom of God while I am alive.  
I want to give my life for something that'll last for ever:  
Oh, I delight, I delight to do Your will.

*What is on Your heart . . .*

I want to see the Lord come again in my generation.  
I want to see the Lord come again while I am alive.  
I want to give my life for something that'll last for ever.  
Oh, I delight, I delight to do Your will.

*What is on Your heart . . .*

Words and music by Mark Altrogge

This time @home – Margaret Cleal *from St Peter's*

### Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers Waako Family

### A 'Pretzel' prayer activity

This is a 'Pretzel' prayer activity, which simply means we are going to use a pretzel to help us pray. If you have a pretzel, you can hold it out as we pray, if you don't, it's ok to focus on the picture on your screen. If you have one, please feel free to eat it after.



As it's Trinity Sunday, let's begin by noticing how the pretzel is all one but also has three parts.

The first part of our prayer is to acknowledge that we are limited in our understanding of you God, but we know that He cares for us and for all creation. Thank you Lord for loving us and remaining with us in our sorrows and joys. Thank you for the life of Jesus whose life shows us the way to life and happiness and trust. Thank you for your Spirit who leads us. Warm our hearts and unite us, that we might open our lives to you to accept all your love and to respond to it by entrusting ourselves to you with all that you have made us and given us.

Now notice how the pretzel is like two hands praying. And the second part of our prayer is a reminder that that Jesus is always praying for us and that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray to God. And so we take this opportunity to bring before God those facing sadness at the loss of a loved one, bringing to mind the family and friends of Naomi Etheridge, Joan Deacon, Keith Russel, may they know that your hand is upon them. We also bring before you, those in any kind of need, praying for, Mary and Bob Baker, Eileen and Peter Bliss, John Francis, Angela Eaton, Trevor Lloyd, Wendy Todd. And in a short moment of quiet, let us bring to God our own needs and the needs of those we know...

And finally, if you have a Pretzel (or you have had one before), feel it. It is hard and shiny and real! You see, God promises to be real to us if we ask him into our lives. And so as we eat the pretzel (or when you get to eat one), thank God that He desires to live in us, He desires to give us new strength daily in our journey of faith, not just now, but forever more.

Let us now conclude our prayers, with the words of the Grace that surround us with the Trinity who is God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and evermore. Amen

### The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**





**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
And the glory are yours now and for ever.  
Amen.**

Notices see Notes and News

Hymn     **73 Christ is made the sure foundation**

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and corner-stone  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the Church in one;  
holy Zion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.

To this temple where we call thee  
Come O Lord of hosts today.  
With thy wonted loving kindness  
Hear thy people as they pray  
And thy fullest benediction  
Shed within its walls alway

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants  
what they ask of thee to gain,  
what they gain from thee forever  
with the blessed to retain,  
and hereafter in thy glory  
evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,  
Laud and honour to the Son,  
Laud and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three and ever One:  
one in might and one in glory  
while eternal ages run.

Words by John Mason Neale  
Music by Henry Purcell

The Dismissal

**All    The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
         and the love of God,  
         and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
         be with us all evermore.  
         Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All    In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Numbers Quiz Answers

1. 7
2. 3
3. 7
4. 3
5. 2003
6. 7

Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

