

Sunday 12th June 2022

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God is love, let us adore God by sharing God's love.
God is ever present, around us and within us,
we worship together in God.

Readings Proverbs 8: 1, 4-12 & 22-31
John 15:26,27 & 16:13-15

Reflection 1

The concept of the trinity came about at the Council of Nicaea in 325AD in response to questions relating to the hierarchy of Father, Son and Spirit. In the west the trinity is depicted as a triangle to denote the equality of the three and also the unity of the three. For, whilst we denote God through three facets, the father, the son and the Spirit, there is only one God. The trinity is a mystery and at best a human attempt to understand the mystery of God. Great damage can be done when we become lazy with language and use the term God when scripture denotes the term Father, the Father is clearly a part of or concept of part of God, but God is much more than the Father.

Pentecost can often confuse the issue with the strong Christian motif of the arrival of the Spirit when in fact as we read in Proverbs the Spirit was there at the beginning. Proverbs also tells us that Wisdom was there at the beginning, and some see a correlation between Wisdom and Spirit. We can read John as suggesting that the Spirit is the source of Wisdom, it guides us in truth and helps us to see things differently.

There is often much debate about the relationship between knowledge and wisdom and one of the best explanations I have come across is that knowledge is being aware that a tomato is a fruit and not a vegetable, but wisdom is not putting a tomato in your fruit salad! The Spirit inspires us to use the knowledge we have in the best way, to use knowledge to guide our decisions and actions.

One of my favourite children's stories is The Paper Bag Princess and in this we see knowledge being used wisely, and ultimately guiding a decision.

Story – The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch.

Watch [here](#)

Wisdom takes time. We need to pause and reflect on our knowledge and respond to the Spirit so that we make wise decisions. Proverbs is full of wise sayings, sayings which were commonly used by our grandparents, and parents but which have fallen out of usage today. A stitch in time saves nine, too many cooks spoil the broth, and I am sure you can suggest many more - ? Today we have so much knowledge at our fingertips, with a push of a button and the help of Google we find out almost anything we need to know but that is only the beginning we need to take the time to reflect on the way we use that knowledge. We need to apply wisdom to be good disciples in the world. One aspect of good discipleship is given in Psalm 8.

Reading Psalm 8

Reflection 2

The Psalmist reminds us that amidst all the wonders of creation God is not only mindful of humanity and loves us, God gave humanity a special task to care for creation, but have we? This is one area where we have lacked wisdom. We know all the things that are available to us, but we have not applied the wisdom to choose those things which are needed and learn how to care for each other.

Story The wisdom of the Mandolin

Once upon a time, in a Kingdom far away, the King was seriously ill, and the doctors did not know what to do. The King was much loved, known for his wise decisions and his compassion so, when a

visiting musician came to the town he became aware of the great sadness that hung over the town. His songs were filled with that sadness. When he had been playing a while he asked the people around why they were so sad and they explained about their fears for their King. Now the musician believed that his instrument, a fine mandolin, was possessed of wisdom and guided his songs, he suggested that his mandolin may have an answer for the people. He began to sing and as he came to the end of his song he sang of the King needing to wear the shirt of a happy man. The people were astounded and immediately set about trying to find a happy man.

They searched among the leaders of the town, but found they were all concerned about increasing their wealth and status. They searched among the merchants of the town, but they were all concerned about a recession and rising costs. They searched among the ordinary people, but they were all fearful of the future and feeling oppressed. What were they to do, was there no one happy with their lot?

Then, one day they heard someone singing in the forest at the edge of the town. Curious they went closer and listened, his song was about the sunlight on his back and the beauty of the trees around, he sang of the simple fare that nourished him and the refreshing spring water that quenched his thirst. They realised here was their happy man. However, their joy was short lived when they realised he did not have a shirt.

They stayed there listening, deep in thought, and as they did so they found themselves feeling a peace and contentment they had not experienced before. Into the peace came the mandolin player and as he picked up the song of the man he added his own words – learn from me and you can be happy. At the end of the song he left, but his song stayed with them and very soon the King was offered more shirts than he could ever need, and the cloud of sorrow lifted from the town.

Based on a traditional story.

Humanity has not cared for the earth, and people of faith have not held our actions to account. Now we face a crisis, our planet is seriously ill and we need to change our ways and learn to be content with less and share more. When we were worshipping in the run up to COP26, on zoom we watched many videos and films that challenged and inspired, and I would like to share one of these with you now. It says everything in a very creative way.

Video Sorry

Watch [here](#)