

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



We believe that wherever we worship God 'in Spirit and in truth', He will be present.

To worship at home on your own or with others in your household, choose a specific place - perhaps somewhere you can light a candle, and where you can sit undisturbed. Choose a time when you can be unhurried. Then read slowly through the service sheet, praying the prayers as you go. If you are with others, then one of you will need to take the lead and say the words in normal type with the other(s) reading the parts in bold. If it is just you, then read the bold phrases marked, but you might need to adapt them a little. Some people find it helps to read the prayers and responses aloud, even on their own. You'll find the readings, collect and reflection on a separate sheet that should have been circulated alongside this order of service. You might like to listen to the audio version of this service that you can find on www.lordsbridge.org whilst you follow the print version.

Trinity Sunday – Introduction

St Patrick is said to have explained the Holy Trinity with a clover leaf. The Celtic Church illustrated their bibles with calligraphy showing knots of interwoven patterns of three in one. However, the Holy Trinity is not a doctrine but a relationship! Many people today feel themselves to be far from God – unworthy, alienated and at odds. At a deep level many of us still think we have to be good enough or religious enough to earn God's love. We find it hard to understand grace. In our worship today we shall find that we belong to the heart of the Trinity – not because of what we have done to earn God's love, but because of God's deep, unconditional, unending love for us.

Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Holy God,
divine Unity,
dynamic Trinity:

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hold us in the mystery of your love,
fill us with the deep peace of your presence,
open our eyes to our place in your heart,
as we still our bodies, slow our breathing, and open ourselves to you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We have too often exchanged the worship of the living God
for idols of our own imagining.
As we gather to offer ourselves to the holy and undivided Trinity,
and to worship him in spirit and in truth,
let us call to mind our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse *us* from *our* sins,
and restore *us* in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

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 forever.
Amen.

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Bible Readings and Homily

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

You may wish to use the following, or your own prayers, or those from your church.

For all who have not known love,
for children who have been neglected,
for all who have been abandoned,
for all who live with a sense of being unwanted:

Know yourself, held
In the heart of God's love.

For all who have been taught to feel shame,
all who live with a sense of being unworthy, blemished, dirty.
For those who have been abused,
for those who have been rejected because of their sexuality:

Know yourself, held
In the heart of God's love.

For all who feel lonely, isolated, or cut off from others,
for those living with depression or other mental illness,

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for all who are becoming housebound through disability or ageing:

Know yourself, held
In the heart of God's love.

For all who are struggling with illness, and those who care for others,
for all who are in chronic pain, or waiting for treatment,
for all who are receiving end of life care.

Know yourself, held
In the heart of God's love.

For all who have died, all whom we have loved,
for those who seemed to have no one to mourn their death:

Know yourself, held
In the heart of God's love.

Final Prayer

God of grace,
May we know that we are held in the heart of your love.
may we realise that we are cherished and belong,
that there is nothing we need to do to earn our place,
but simply to open our eyes,
to see the new perspectives and possibilities before us.
Give us your deep confidence now,
to live from that place of grace and peace,
in Christ and through Christ.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;**

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**but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Blessing

God the Holy Trinity,
Father, Son, Spirit,
hold us now in the place where we belong,
in your heart of love.
Bless us now as we open our eyes,
to see one another as beloved children,
to see your image set in each one of us,
to know that we are loved.
Amen.