



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



'Church in the Home'

Edition 12

Sunday June 7th – Saturday June 13th

From the Vicarage

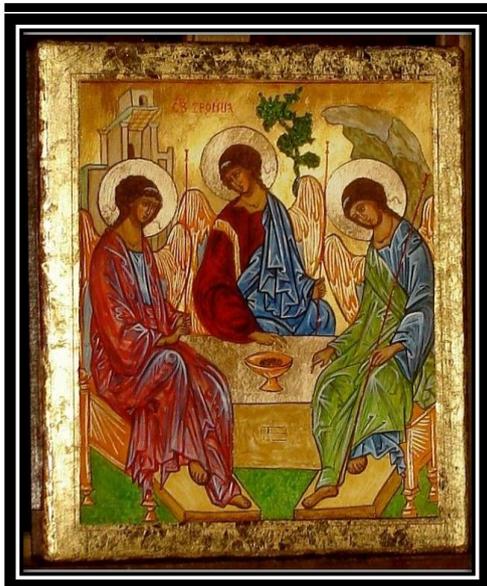
In the churches calendar, the Sunday after Pentecost is known as 'Trinity Sunday'. A day when we remember the three-fold nature of God: Father, Son *and* Holy Spirit.

The two pictures I have copied below are separated by over 500 years of history. One is by the fourteenth century Russian artist, Andrei Rublev, and the other by the twentieth century Ukrainian artist Valentina Samoilik.

Rublev gives each person of the Trinity different clothing. On the right, the Holy Spirit has a garment of the blue of the sky. The Son in the centre has the deepest colours; a thick heavy garment of the reddish-brown of earth and a cloak of the blue of heaven, uniting heaven and earth, and the Father seems to wear all the colours in a kind of fabric that changes with the light. They gather around the table, a traditional place of welcome and the space in the foreground seems to be an invitation for us to join them and complete the circle.

Samoilik has the trinity dressed alike but united by an embracing halo. In different ways they both focus on the essential relationship that there is in the Godhead.

The books written to try and explain the Holy Trinity would probably fill the shelves of hundreds of libraries. In the end, I believe the most important thing is not to explain but to *experience* the Holy Trinity. It's not a case of addition where $1+1+1=3$, more of multiplication of the same where, God says, $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. He is the one that matters.





All my hope on God is founded

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew>

Music from
Terri

This traditional hymn speaks of bringing strength to the weary, God lovingly provides what we need to face each new day. The simple message is that if we follow him we will not fall.

All my hope on God is founded,
all my trust he shall renew;
he, my guide through changing order,
only good and only true:
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
all that human toil can fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

Day by day our mighty giver
grants to us his gifts of love;
in his will our souls find pleasure,
leading to our home above:
love shall stand at his hand,
joy shall wait for his command.

Still from Earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done;
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son:
hear Christ's call, one and all –
we who follow shall not fall.

Everlasting God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egPS5aZZHrg>

The lyrics to this modern worship song are perfect for the reading from Isaiah 40 27-31. God is our defender and our everlasting Lord, if we wait on him we will not grow weary or faint, he will defend the weak, comfort the needy, and lift us all up in his mighty strength.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer
You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer
You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on the wings
Like eagles
Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer
'Cause You are, You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on the wings
Like eagles
From everlasting to everlasting
God, You are everlasting



Sunday May 31st Bible Readings:

Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

Click on this site, type in the reading you want and then listen to David Suchet read it to you.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Gen.1>

Reflection

Our reading today contains a wonderful promise: *'those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint'* (Isaiah 40:31 NIV). Our Psalm says *'from the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise (or strength)'* Psalm 8:2a NIV).

A reminder that as we draw close to God in worship, no matter what our age, we can experience our strength being renewed even in the most challenging of situations.

When I considered this reflection we thought about the old Christian hymn, 'It is well with my soul'. I looked up the hymn on Wikipedia and discovered it written by American lawyer and church elder, Horatio Spafford. Spafford lost most of his business in the great fire of Chicago of 1871, and two years later, having bid his wife and daughters farewell on a trip to England, learned that the ship on which they travelled had met with a tragic accident with 226 casualties including his four daughters. His wife sent him telegram from England saying 'saved alone.' It was on the journey to re-join her that Spafford wrote 'It Is Well with my Soul'. He focussed on a blessed assurance; he settled on a glorious thought, he accepted that whisper of peace to his soul. Sometimes, God's voice is a whisper, easily drowned out by other voices, but we can take time-out to adjust our tuning and listen more closely to God. Isaiah calls that hoping in the LORD. Our own Rev. Dave calls that taking time out to 'have a coffee with God.'

A good time to do this is first thing in the morning, waking early with the dawn (Psalm 108:2) and in this respect, I like Hebrews 12, which tells us to look away from distractions and unto Jesus; He is the founder and finisher of the faith. Further, if we compare our difficulties next to his and what he endured for humanity, that should give us pause not to grow weary (Hebrews 12:2-3). After all, 'He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth', as it says Isaiah 40:22a, and surely the nations are like a 'drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales' (Isaiah 40:15). It helps to get things in perspective.

Another good way of receiving this strength from God is to do it together. The pilgrims said to each other, 'let us go up to the house of the Lord' (Psalm 122:1) As they travelled, for company and protection, they would share with each other all that they had learned from God. Fellowship brings strength. In this respect, I saw a connection between the well-known song Side by Side and the Greek word *koinonia*, which means fellowship. The song 'Side by Side' was written in 1927 by song-writer Harry Woods. *'We don't know what's coming tomorrow, maybe its trouble and sorrow, but we can travel the road, sharing our load, side by side'*. Through all kinds of weather, what if the sky should fall? Just as long as we're together – one body with many members – it doesn't matter at all.

The early church were devoted, among other things, to their *koinonia* (Acts 2:42). They endured much hardship and suffering but stayed together in love and unity (Acts 2:44). They were in awe of God (Acts 2:43). Jesus became weary having travelled from Judea to Samaria and he rested at Jacob's well. He shared with a woman who came to draw water about who he was and about the gift available from God. Suddenly he was revived in strength, and as his disciples tried to work out who had given him some food, he made this statement. 'My food, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work' (John 4:34).

Our gospel reading reminds us of our work, the great commission, outlined in Matthew 28:16-20. In Isaiah 40 it says to not hold back but lift up with strength and the message - behold God (Isaiah 40:9).

In the Psalms we are encouraged to praise or bless the Lord and **forget not** all his benefits (Psalm 103:2). These benefits are not anything you would find in a local sales brochure; they can only be supplied by God (Psalm 103:3-5). The last benefit in verse five is a straight connection to our text in Isaiah; he satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles (Psalm 103:5 NIV).

So let us connect on this Trinity Sunday with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, in speaking of that wonderful new strength and love. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship (*koinonia*) of the Holy Spirit be with us all, (2 Corinthians 13:13), evermore, Amen.

Julian Spykerman



Prayers



Worry is a theme of our times in this time of pandemic – worry about health, work, finances, our loved ones, loneliness – and lots more. I was up on the moor above Askrigg this week, looking over to Addlebrough, my favourite hill. My worry hill! From the tops, Addlebrough sits gently as part of a greater landscape, barely noticeable, whereas from the village, it is a large dominant hill on our horizon. It's about perspective! Let us bring God in on our worries - pray, talk, share – Go on high, give it up to God and let us rest in his hands. I was given a small painted stone this week by a very special member of our church – it said “Let go and Let God”.

It says it all really - Allelulia!

Creator God, we are blessed by you, forgiven by you and we trust in you. We are so blessed to live here - day after day we have risen to blue skies and sunshine, to green fields and birdsong. As the landscape turns to a patchwork of colour and textures, we see the meadows turning a hazy yellow with buttercups, the trees are in leaf and the grass greening up for winter feed. God's creation at its most glorious. Let us pray for God's land, that as custodians we nurture not ruin, put in not take out, enhance not detract.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Protector God, we pray for all those who care for us in body, mind and spirit. For our clergy, especially Dave in our Parishes, and for the leaders of our churches. Watching the Pentecost service with Archbishop Welby and seeing His Holiness Pope Francis giving the address, was a wonderful acclamation of faith working as one across denominations. Pope Francis said “Do we want Hope for tomorrow? Then we must give Hope today”. We must listen in order to be heard. We must act and not be complacent. We also pray for those in authority, with the unenviable task of guiding us through economic and social upheaval – be with them Lord and help them to do what is right, with mercy and understanding. We pray for the key workers who are working hard through this pandemic often in unfamiliar environments. We pray for the teachers who have gone back to work this week and for the children who have returned to school. Let them enjoy being reunited with their friends and back into the routine of school, but keep them safe and happy.

Lord in your Mercy, Hear our prayer.

Genesis 2:7 says “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” The last words of George Floyd “I cannot breathe”. People all around the world have risen up in horror at the brutal murder of George Floyd, which has sparked riots, demonstrations and protests across America and beyond. Around the world people have debated, discussed and prayed. Churches have come together in prayer. The subject of Race feels uncomfortable with people afraid of saying the wrong thing. But, as has been reiterated all week, silence is not an option. As Christians of all races, if we turn to face our Lord, and we bathe in His light, we will walk with Him and He will provide us with the right words, and more importantly, the right actions. Our God created diversity and difference. In John 17 Jesus said “Father make them one as you and I are one”. We are all children of God. Let us pray for unity and love to prevail. Archbishop John Sentamu, speaking on Radio 4 this week said: “Hate cannot drive out Hate; Only Love can do that”.
Let us choose love.

Lord in your Mercy, Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for those in our community who need our prayers and for those known only to us. At a time when people are often lonely, sick, grieving in isolation, or simply unable to share the act of a loving embrace, may they find comfort in you O Lord and know that you are always with them, always loving. We pray for those recently bereaved, particularly Brenda and the family of John Stirling who died this week, a true Christian man of faith.

Lord in Your Mercy, Hear our Prayer

Father God, as we go forward into this new week, let us do so with the light of your love shining from us so that others may come to know the joy of a life lived in you.

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ AMEN

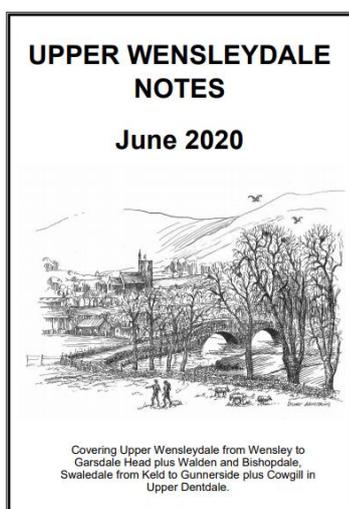
Elizabeth Fawcett

...This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday ...

Sunday June 7th
10:30am
Join us for our
'Gathering'
Service



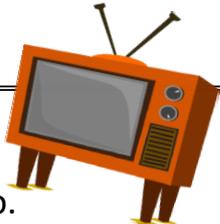
To view this Sunday's service:
Visit the website
www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk
or our FaceBook page :
[upperwensleydalechurch-cofe](https://www.facebook.com/upperwensleydalechurch-cofe)



The Upper Wensleydale Newsletter
has moved online during the lockdown.
The June Notes and the previous editions
can be found at:
<http://www.upperwensleydalenewsletter.co.uk>

A BIG Thank you to everyone who donated to the Funzi Bodo Trust on Tuesday. Everything given goes to support the charity.

TV
Radio



Worship on the BBC:

Tune into some of the services on TV and Radio.

- Sunday: Radio 4** Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am **Trinity Sunday** with Jonathan Rea
- Radio 3** Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm from St Mary's Warwick
- Wed: Radio 3** Choral Evensong 3:30 – 4:30pm from York Minster
- Sunday BBC1** Worship. 10:45 – 11:15am **Trinity Sunday** service

From St David's Cathedral with Rev Canon Leigh



1:15-1:50 **Songs of Praise** with Sean Fletcher
How music and faith can help us through the dark times in life