

NORTHGATE

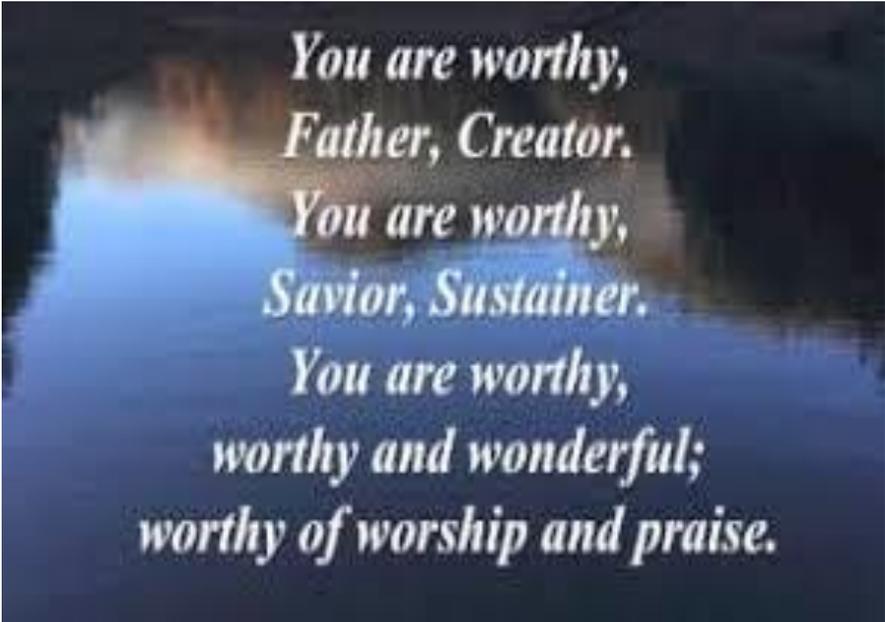
The weekly notices of
OAKHAM METHODIST CHURCH

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Sunday 30th May 2021



*You are worthy,
Father, Creator.
You are worthy,
Savior, Sustainer.
You are worthy,
worthy and wonderful;
worthy of worship and praise.*

The preacher at OMC Sunday Service this week is
Rev Ruth Charlesworth

TRINITY SUNDAY

Today we reach another special Sunday in the Christian calendar as we now have a Sunday when we celebrate the three persons of God. Traditionally we have seen the Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. More recently the Trinity has been described not by who it is but by how it blesses us. Our God is a God of relationship, a God who shares our lives with us, who aches for us to find and know him and who blesses us every day. With that in mind I find it more helpful to think of the Trinity as Creator, Saviour and Sustainer. There are other ways to describe God in relationship with us and I would encourage you to take the time to find the words that suit you and where you are in your faith.

Call to Worship:

Holy, holy, holy is our wonderful God! Creator! Saviour! Sustainer! Let us worship our God of infinite mystery, yet who is closer to us than our own breath. **Amen.**

Prayers:

Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we praise you for the might and the mystery of your being. We praise you for the uniqueness and the unity of your fellowship. We praise you for drawing us together and for setting us apart. We praise you in song, in silence, in the mundane and in the mystical. We praise you. **Amen.**

God of truth, we bring to you our sorrow for our sins. For seeking earthly absolutes and not eternal mysteries: **We are truly sorry.** For rooting ourselves in the finite and not nurturing the infinite within: **We are truly sorry.** For saying 'I' much more than 'we' and for damaging relationships: **We are truly sorry.** Forgive us and strengthen us, we pray. **For we are truly sorry.**

Reading: John 3:1-17

Reflection: Nicodemus, a religious leader whose role it was to point the Jewish people towards God, comes to Jesus at night. It is clear from Nicodemus' first words that he sees Jesus as entirely human, a Rabbi, a teacher, a prophet who God is with. Nicodemus sits with Jesus and talks to him and even by the end of the conversation still has no idea that he is sitting and talking directly to God. Jesus is God walking among us. Jesus points out very early on that nobody can see the Kingdom of God without being born of the Spirit. Still thinking in human terms, Nicodemus tries to work out how that is physically possible.

At this point I find the message within the passage. Knowing God is not something we can force or achieve through our efforts. Nicodemus' question "Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" is therefore wrong; it is not about what we do it is about what God does. The Spirit moves and those who have received the Spirit do not know where she came from or why she came at that point. But she came. The work we need to do is simply trusting in God, listening to the truth spoken by Jesus because he has come from heaven and speaks the truth of God. And then we have the wonderful verses which tell us the truth we need to hear "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." This is the gift of the Trinity given to each one of us who stops, who trusts and who takes the time to hear.

Response: For a few weeks I have suggested that you take time in worship to connect with God through a view, a picture or music. Continue to do that today, find what enables you to simply be with God not forcing a connection but enjoying your time together.

Prayers of Intercession: God the Father, ground me in your being as we pray for those who flounder and struggle with the pressures of life. May they see some shape, some purpose to life and find a way to move forward. May their struggles become less tangled, and may they find calm in the chaos of their living. God the Son, enfold me in your love as we pray for those who know little or no love, security or peace; for those who live in fear and loneliness; for those who are shrouded in pain and smothered by death; for those without family support and succour, the friendless and the homeless. God the Holy Spirit, embolden us to share as we pray for those who have no hope, no dreams, no visions; for those who have no knowledge of you, who have not seen you, nor felt you, nor encountered you; for those without faith and trust, those seemingly lost to themselves and to you. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, these are all your children; for them we pray. **Amen.**

Sending Out: Wonderful God, help us to keep adventuring with you. May we allow ourselves to be filled with visions of your awesomeness, and may we know your presence closer to us than our own breathing. **Amen.**

Service prepared by Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Friends,

On Sunday 23rd May, Empingham re-opened for worship, meaning that all three of the Rutland Methodist church buildings are now re-open.

Whilst praying for each of you and thanking God for carrying us through the past year I was struck with how in awe of all you I am. In the past year you have suffered as you have been separated from each other as the physical buildings have closed. But that hasn't stopped you as worship continued in different forms, pastoral care for each other continued and fellowship through telephone calls, doorstep chats and Zoom grew. And in all of this you have welcomed a Probationer Minister as she takes her first steps in ministry.

When decisions had to be made about reopening you each had the hard discussions, listened to each other and the community and chose the best way forward for each church. This caused pain as some had to put their own desires aside. But it didn't stop you working through the problems to find a way to continue walking together.

I am blessed to be the probationer minister of each of the Rutland churches and I am looking forward to the next steps where we celebrate our return, mourn what we have lost, hear each other's stories and experiences and take the lessons of the past year to heart. God is doing great things in Rutland and we have an exciting future ahead of us.

God bless
Rev'd Bekkie Wright