

**Ukraine** The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal has launched a special appeal encouraging all parishes in Ireland to have a special collection this/next Sunday to support the appeal. To donate please use the link on our website: <https://clareanglicans.ie> or go direct to: [www.christianaid.ie](http://www.christianaid.ie)

*Every Friday at 12.00 in St Columba's there is a silent prayer vigil for peace in Ukraine – all are welcome*

#### Parish Visit of +Michael

+ Michael will be visiting all three of our churches, starting from the Rectory at 10.30am on 12<sup>th</sup> July. The intention is that we will visit each church at a pre-arranged time, to meet as many people as are available for refreshments or lunch, and, if possible, he would like to briefly meet with church wardens and readers as well.

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June – 2.00 to 5.00pm

The Shannon choir *Non Nobis Domine* will be visiting the church to record a number of tracks for YouTube and their own archives. Drumcliffe Studios will video and record.

#### Burren Walk

A sign-up sheet is at the back of church for those who would like to take a short walk through the Burren, with the well-known local guide Pius Murray – around 5km of easy walking.

#### Living the Questions - Course

This is advance notice that when meeting inside becomes easier, as the warm weather comes and windows can be open, I intend to resume the course that we started, and then had to cancel, in Lent 2020. This course features some eminent and very engaging theologians and is very accessible, whilst also thoughtful and challenging – start date to be confirmed, but please put your name down on the sign-up sheet if you are interested so I can gauge numbers.

**Book Club?** Please let Sue know if you might be interested in joining a church book club (but not for 'religious' books, but novels and biographies etc that members of the book club might like to suggest). The members would meet either in the Rectory or in each other's homes in turn.

**Website:** [clareanglicans.ie](http://clareanglicans.ie)

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans](http://www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans)

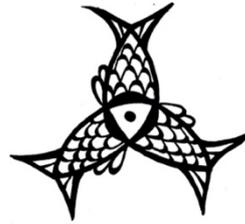
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans](http://www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans)

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*worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org> The Common Worship psalter is © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000.*



# Trinity Sunday 2022 (Year C)

#### 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 for ever. **Amen**

**Suggested Hymns** - For the online service you might like to view these hymns with lyrics on YouTube.

1) Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39ZfrO0UW\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39ZfrO0UW_s)

2) God, Whose Almighty Word  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJuqdlVH8VY>

3) Creator of the stars of night  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpyTQwo\\_gYo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpyTQwo_gYo)

4) Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spE-BE23qxA>

#### Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31

Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?  
On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand;  
beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:  
'To you, O people, I call,  
and my cry is to all that live.  
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.  
Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth—  
when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.  
When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.

#### Psalms 8

O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.  
Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.  
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?  
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honour.

You have given them dominion  
over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,  
all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.  
O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

#### **Romans 5.1-5**

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

#### **John 16.12-15**

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

#### **Commentary**

##### **Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31**

Wisdom, "understanding" is personified as a woman in this seven-stanza poem. Vv. 1-5 are the first stanza, and vv. 22-31 are the fifth and sixth. She "cries out" (v. 3) to all people everywhere ("all that live", v. 4). Her message is primarily to young people. She speaks "utter truth" (v. 7) – she is absolutely reliable. She is completely opposed to anything dishonest or insincere. Her message possesses integrity and makes sense, to those who understand (v. 9). Her "instruction" (v. 10) is superior to all material goods. She offers "good advice" (v. 14) and "sound wisdom" with "insight" and "strength". She guides those who rule justly (vv. 15-16). She reciprocates the love offered to her; she is found by those who "seek me diligently" (v. 17). While walking with great integrity, she brings material prosperity to all who listen to her (vv. 20-21).

Vv. 22-31 tell of her relationship to creation. God "created" (i.e. generated) her as "the first of his acts" – before he created, i.e. before "the beginning of the earth" (v. 23), before he created the "depths" (v. 24), etc. She was "brought forth": the Hebrew word presents an image of birth, as in begot or formed. Vv. 24-26 use Canaanite mythological motifs ("depths", "springs", shaping of "mountains") to say that wisdom existed before creation began. Again, v. 27 tells us that she pre-existed the world: she was present at creation, as a witness. She came to know God's secrets in creating the heavens and the earth (e.g. in limiting the extent of the sea, v. 29.) She was "beside him" (v. 30) at that time. (Later authors, those of Sirach and Wisdom, show that she had an active role in creation.) Either she was "like a master worker", a craftsperson, in creative acts, or the Hebrew can mean little child: a notion which fits well with "brought forth" (vv. 24, 25) and with the rest of v. 30. She was God's "delight" and she delighted in his creation of humankind; she rejoiced both in God and in those created. When later trans-culturated into the Greek world, Wisdom becomes logos, the pre-existent divine Word: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"; he "became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:1, 14).

#### **Psalm 8**

As a picture is framed, so is this psalm: vv. 1a and 9 praise God for his glory, his presence among us – as symbolized by his "name". He is the fashioner of creation, greater than all creation. He has used modest means ("babes and infants", v. 2) to overcome "foes" – perhaps the powers of chaos in Genesis 1:1. He is majestic and lofty, but also a craftsman ("the work of your fingers", v. 3). V. 4 asks him: what makes mere humans worthy of your attention and care? ("Mortals" translates ben'adam, literally son of man.) Then v. 5: You've made us only slightly lower than the heavenly council and allowed us to share in your glory and honour! (The word translated "God" is plural, and is angels in the King James Version.) Vv. 6-8 recall the first creation story: God has given us a share in his power by conferring on us authority over the rest of what he created.

#### **Romans 5:1-5**

Paul has written that union with God (justification) comes through faith. "Peace", a Jewish concept, expresses all the benefits of a right relationship with God – namely a partnership of reconciliation, eternal well-being and wholeness of life. "Grace" (v. 2) is God's free and unmerited offer of mercy and love towards all people. Earlier (in 3:23), Paul has noted that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God", i.e. of what God intended for humans when he created us. Even so, through God's grace, we "boast in our hope of sharing" (v. 2) in this glory, this gift of complete oneness with him in eternal life. Christ is our entry point to God's grace. This justification has a second effect: even in times of trial ("sufferings", v. 3, perhaps when beset with doubt that Christ loves us) it lead us to openness to God's plans for us ("hope", v. 4), for "suffering produces endurance" (v. 3, including patience under fire), which in turn "produces character" (v. 4, proven-ness under testing). This process makes us better able to be open to God. Our hope, unlike that we have in fellow humans, is assured ("does not disappoint", v. 5), for God has given us his Holy Spirit, who is present in us, and who continually brings God's love to us.

#### **John 16:12-15**

After the Last Supper, Jesus continues to tell the disciples about the mission they are to undertake. The "Spirit of truth" (15:26) is the Holy Spirit; he will be sent to the disciples, the Church, by Christ "from the Father". Jesus' statement "yet none of you asks me, 'where are you going?'" (v. 5) seems strange because the disciples have asked the question earlier (13:36, 14:5). Perhaps he is saying: overwhelmed with "sorrow" (v. 6), you are missing the main point: the coming of the Spirit. By leaving them, Jesus is able to send the Spirit, "the Advocate" (v. 7). One thing the Spirit will do is to show "the world" (v. 8, unbelievers, possibly Jews) that they are wrong on three counts:  
their idea of sin is incorrect (v. 9);  
the righteous (the Jewish authorities) who condemned Jesus were wrong: he is God's agent (v. 10); and  
he has defeated sin (v. 11).

An example: healing on the Sabbath is not sinful.

Now v. 12-13: the disciples have much more to learn from Jesus, but they are not yet ready to comprehend it. The Spirit will expand on what Jesus has told them. In guiding them, the Spirit will speak what comes to him from God (as Jesus has spoken what the Father has told him). The Spirit will "declare" (v. 13) about events "to come", not only prophecy about the end-times but also guidance in the way of Christ, after Jesus' death and resurrection. The Spirit will elucidate for them that Jesus fulfils God's plans; he will reveal the essential nature of God, and show Christ's power ("glorify", v. 14). Whether the word comes from the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit, it is the same.

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