



# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Kelso



## An Open and Inclusive Church

[www.standrewskelso.co.uk](http://www.standrewskelso.co.uk)

Charity Number SC006302

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### Regular Services:

Wednesdays 10am : Holy Communion (1982 Liturgy)

Sundays 8.30am : Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)

10am: Eucharist (1982 Liturgy) .

COVID restrictions re social distancing, and wearing face coverings still apply. We are still unable to sing, or meet for coffee after the service. Communion will be received in one kind only.

Our online services will continue to be provided via these links:

Website: [www.standrewskelso.co.uk/services](http://www.standrewskelso.co.uk/services)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsKelso](https://www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsKelso)

### Today's Services:

**Sunday May30th 2021**

**Trinity Sunday**

8.30am: Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)

10am: Eucharist (1982 Liturgy)

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Bob King

Liturgy of the Word: The Rev'd Grace Redpath

So, welcome to our services, wherever and however you join us, and remember that Grace and I are available at any time to talk on the phone or Facetime or Messenger or Text.

With my love and prayers, Bob

**The Peace of the Lord be always with us.**

**Opening Hymn: Thy hand, O God, has guided**

1. Thy hand, O God, has guided  
thy flock from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written,  
full clear on every page;  
our forebears owned thy goodness,  
and we their deeds record;  
and both of this bear witness:  
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

2. The heralds brought glad tidings  
to greatest, as to least;  
they bade them rise, and hasten  
to share the great King's feast;  
and this was all their teaching,  
in every deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming:  
one Church, one Faith, one Lord
3. Through many a day of darkness,  
through many a scene of strife,  
the faithful few fought bravely  
to guard the nation's life.  
their gospel of redemption,  
sin pardoned, hope restored,  
was all in this enfolded:  
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.
4. And we, shall we be faithless?  
shall hearts fail, hands hang down?  
Shall we evade the conflict,  
and cast away our crown?  
Not so: in God's deep counsels  
some better thing is stored;  
we will maintain, unflinching,  
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.
5. Thy mercy will not fail us,  
nor leave thy work undone;  
with thy right hand to help us,  
the victory shall be won;  
and then by all creation  
thy name shall be adored,  
and this shall be their anthem:  
One Church, one Faith , One Lord.

## **The Liturgy of the Word and Intercessions**

### **The Rev'd Grace Redpath**

#### **The Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden,  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **The Summary of the Law**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:  
The first commandment is this:  
"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, with all your soul,  
with all your mind  
and with all your strength."  
The second is this:  
"Love your neighbour as yourself."  
There is no other commandment greater than these.  
**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

God is love and we are his children.  
There is no room for fear in love.  
We love because he loved us first.  
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**God our Father, we confess to you  
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.  
We are truly sorry.  
Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil,  
for the sake of your Son who died for us,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

God, who is both power and love,  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
We praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Intercessions

**Grace** will lead prayers for the Church and the World, and we are invited to bring our own concerns before God, including:

**Coronavirus:** all who are suffering from it, worrying about it, treating it, researching it, and all who are working to keep us safe, and keep us fed.

**Those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time, including:** Joseph Hodge, John Leddy, Nancy Robertson, William Turnbull, Millicent Nellist, Trevor Reynolds and all who mourn them.

## Readings Isaiah 6.1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’

And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

**This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

**This is the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 3: 1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’

Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'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.

**Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel  
Praise to Christ our Lord**

### **Reflection: The Rev'd Canon Bob King**

**To God the Father, who created the world;**

**To God the Son, who redeemed the world.**

**To God the Holy Spirit, who sustains the world;**

**Be all praise and glory, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

The reading from the Old Testament, from the book of the Prophet Isaiah is a very special reading.

Well, it's very special to me.

On Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1994 I read that passage in Hereford Cathedral on the day I was to be Ordained as a Deacon.

Gosh 27 years ago.

To me there has always been a bit of an Irony that the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July is also the feast day of St Thomas the Apostle. Doubting Thomas. The disciple that did not take things on face value but needed to see and understand for himself.

I read about the year in which King Uzziah died and the dreams that Isaiah was having about the seraphs attending the Lord on His throne.

The seraphs (and remember this is the OLD Testament, before the Son of God had arrived on earth) who said “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts” - Three Holies! All equal and a great title for a hymn which we will have at the end of this sermon.

I continued to describe the thick smoke that filled the house and then I had to read the words

“Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips” etc etc.

I read those words as a Lay person

An hour later I was Ordained

I became Reverend.

I was still Bob

I was still a husband, son, brother

I was still a Father, Friend, Uncle

I was still a man of unclean lips

But I was Ordained.

All the other parts of me were the same, just my role had changed.

During my life I had learned work skills. – to be a catering manager, a salesman and now a deacon and a year later a priest.

I had amassed knowledge, I had read books, I had remembered some of the things I had been taught and was trying to put them into practice.

However, this year I seem to have forgotten one of my mentor’s teaching. – Always delegate the Trinity Sunday Sermon to someone else!!

I remember we all had lunch after the Ordination Service, and I had a very large and refreshing Gin and Tonic. Gin, Tonic and Ice - each element blended together. Individually they’re unique yet when mixed in a glass the three elements become one, each playing a very important part but equally blended to produce a perfect, life-giving and very drinkable libation.

I always marvel at ice – incredible stuff. Is it water? Or when frozen is it ice? Or if you boil it, is it steam?

No, it’s just water – in 3 different forms.

After we had eaten and everyone had gone home I decided I was hungry so I had a Mars Bar.

Chocolate, Caramel and Nougat. All different ingredients but all have to be present in a Mars Bar – none of them more important than any of the others. They are equal but all essential and a Mars Bar is not a Mars Bar without the three of them.

Thinking about Mars Bars I’m reminded that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are with us as we work, rest and play. Their relationship with each other, totally intertwined, is like the relationship we strive for with the Trinity and with those around us – working, resting and playing.

St Augustine said this about the Trinity by the way.

He said, each part, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is equal. Not one greater than the other or even greater than the other two added together.

Interesting theory. I have always thought. A new slant on Pythagoras Theory. The square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides.

No, I never got that at school either.

Once again 3 things:

The Trinity is all about Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Interestingly, it is not described anywhere in the Bible, but it is the bedrock of our faith.

All three of them are different. Yet in their diversity they live and work in unity and harmony.

God has always been present since before time began - the catalyst for creation.

Jesus always present and born in human form as we read in the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit always present and revealed on the Day of Pentecost, although there are many references to the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible such as:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.' Jesus himself said it in the synagogue as Grace told us last week.

The Spirit comforts and guides and inspires.

The Son teaches and acts and gives us examples to follow.

The Father creates, loves and is constant.

A pretty good trio.

Why worry about it?

What we do know is that the Trinity allows and encourages us to be like Nicodemus.

To wrestle and wonder and ask questions.

To listen and be amazed at the teaching of God through Jesus as revealed by the Holy Spirit.

To know that we can all be born again – but that is another sermon.

So, what is the Trinity all about?

I, like many others before me, struggle with an exact answer. And to be honest that is the joy of the Trinity and the excitement of this Sunday.

We are always looking for a definitive answer.

It appears that Christians are happy to believe in this concept on the surface but then get their doo dahs in a terrible knot about the semantics just like poor old Nicodemus did.

However:

Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee, knew that Jesus was the Son of God. He could feel it in his bones and heard the amazing stories about Jesus performing signs and wonders.

That is why he sneaked to see him at night. He took a massive risk but was determined.

You would have thought that the Son of God would have made it easy for him, but he didn't.

He challenged Nicodemus and told him that he needed to cast off the old and be born from above. Born into new life, far richer than simple flesh and bones. WOW that is amazing.

Jesus said it was not always clear, a bit like the wind that blows, where does it come from? Where does it go? None of us know for sure but we do know it is there.

The Spirit is like that. It is not tangible but it's there, revealing the love of God to us and taking us to the next stage of Jesus' ministry which as again we heard last week did not end with Jesus but lives on through us.

So again, I ask:

I ask as the man who is many things as we all are but always basically Bob.

How do we define the Trinity?

I'm not completely sure.

But I think this Hymn sums it up pretty well in the last verse:

**Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty**

**All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,**

**God in three persons, blessed Trinity.**

Amen

### **Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;**

**holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!**

**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,**

**casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;**

**cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,**

**which wert, and art, and evermore shall be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,**

**though the sinful mortal eye thy glory may not see,**

**only thou art holy, there is none beside thee,**

**perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**

**All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;**

**holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!**

**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**The Service continues with Eucharistic Prayer 4  
Celebrated for us by The Rev'd Canon Bob King**



**Please join in the Communion anyway you would like to.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Hymn: Father, we love you (Glorify your name)**

**1. Father, we love you,  
we worship and adore you,  
glorify your name in all the earth.  
Glorify your name, glorify your name,  
glorify your name in all the earth.**

**2.. Jesus, we love you,  
we worship and adore you,  
glorify your name in all the earth.  
Glorify your name, glorify your name,  
glorify your name in all the earth.**

**3. Spirit, we love you,  
we worship and adore you,  
glorify your name in all the earth.  
Glorify your name, glorify your name,  
glorify your name in all the earth.**

### **Blessing**

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**So, let us all go – or stay –in peace, to love and serve the Lord,  
wherever and however we can.**

**In the name of Christ. Amen**