

Reflections for Trinity Sunday

Celebrating Difference

A few years ago I heard these words, quoted by a Scottish folk singer as he was introducing a song:

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognise, accept and celebrate those differences.

More recently, I found out that these words were written by a black American woman, who was a writer and civil rights activist. I can't help wondering what she would have said in response to all the events and troubles in America over the last few days, following the killing of a black man in police custody.

In this country, we continue to see both the best and the worst of what we can be, in our responses to the coronavirus crisis. Many people continue to work together in so many positive ways, to help and support those who are in greatest need at this time, but we also see signs of anger and blame, division and separation – and we all have the potential within us for the best or the worst responses.

In our church year, this Sunday is Trinity Sunday, as we complete the journey through the seasons of Lent and Easter, to Pentecost, and as we come to celebrate again the three ways that we know God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit..

The pattern that we see in the Trinity is not about unity through uniformity – all being the same. The pattern of the Trinity is of diversity held together in unity, of difference working together in harmony and love.

This truth is at the heart of our faith, and it calls us to stand against all that seeks to divide us and stir up fear and hatred. It invites us to discover anew God's way for us to see our differences as a gift to be celebrated, and to learn to live in harmony as we seek the good of all people, and all of God's creation.

Revd John Waller

O God our mystery,
you bring us to life,
call us to freedom,
and move between us with love.
May we so participate in the love of your trinity
that our lives may be in harmony with you,
and with all your creation. Amen.