

# TRINITY SUNDAY

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## READ: GENESIS 1:1-2:3

"...in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

## REFLECT:

This week you will notice that for a change I'm not using one of Carolyn's photographs to adorn this page (beautiful though they are!). When I happened upon this icon of the Trinity by Kelly Latimore, a fresh take on Rublev's famous depiction, I was taken aback by how fitting it seemed not only for Trinity Sunday, but for the events of the past few weeks that have brought the poison of racism bubbling to the surface, yet again.

It's scary to talk about this. I'm conscious that I'm no expert, in fact the opposite, I'm an awkward beginner when it comes to understanding racism and where it comes from and where it continues to live; in me, in you, in the bloody history of our nation and in the structures of our society. But surely not talking about it is worse.

We must not ignore the horror of George Floyd's broad-daylight murder, a story that just keeps on repeating itself. We must not ignore the welling rage and the response of further brutality that have been filling our news-screens this week. We must not ignore the fact that those of black and ethnic minorities continue to be disproportionately numbered among the poor and the incarcerated, and now, among those most seriously affected by the Corona Virus. And we certainly must not ignore the ways that the Church, and Christianity, and the name of God, have been used (and continue to be used - as in Trump's recent sickening photo op) to bolster and justify and sanctify the most horrendous injustices.

The reading from Genesis set by the lectionary this week is one I have mixed feelings about. I find verse 26-28's talk of "dominion" problematic; it has so ill-served our relationship with the rest of creation. But our reading also contains that beautiful assertion that humans, all of them, are created in the image of God.

And the idea of God as Trinity, hinted at here in the creation account and developed through centuries of Christian thought and experience, gives an amazing picture of God who, in Godself, is love, relationship, equality, diversity, cooperation and community.

I wonder how, as churches full of white people, we might seek out, listen to, learn from and be led by the voices of those who don't look the same as us. Perhaps we need to repent. Perhaps, in the face of such deep-rooted evil, we also need to believe the good news: that the kingdom of God is at hand.

May God help us to see and honour the image of the Triune God, in all others and in ourselves.

## CONNECT:

Spend some time with the icon overleaf. What thoughts and feelings does it evoke in you?

## PRAY:

- For the safety of those peacefully protesting
- For all victims of discrimination
- For the courage to learn uncomfortable truths
- For an awareness of our own privilege and prejudice

## RESOURCES AND CONTACTS:

Our friends at Wheatley URC have a huge archive of online sermons you can listen to, and are regularly posting new resources on their website:  
[www.wheatleyurc.org.uk](http://www.wheatleyurc.org.uk)

If you need any help, have a prayer request, or would like someone to talk to; please contact your elder or one of us:  
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