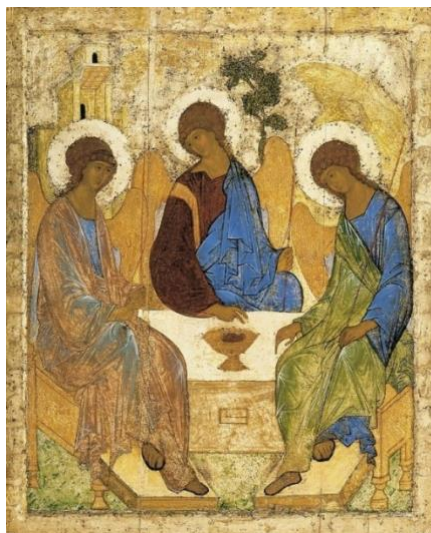


Church at Home for Abridge

Sunday 14th June 2020

Further resources for worship and reflection



*15th century icon of
The Hospitality of Abraham
by Andrei Rublev*

This icon was used in the service last week, and it serves as a beautiful connection between Trinity Sunday and the reading from Genesis 18 this morning. God has promised that His Kingdom will come on earth, and that His will is going to be done. To do this, He chooses people who will be His partners. Abraham was one of these. As followers of Jesus, we are also called to be partners in God's work, just as Abraham and Sarah were. And we are bound together by God's Spirit into a community called church, where we gather at the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion. Rublev portrays Abraham's meal for his guests in a way that many have seen as a forerunner of this.

This story of Jesus sending out His disciples in what is a vital part of their training for the time after He has left them, is remarkable. First, He demonstrates to them exactly what they are to do, preach, say, feel, and pray for (Gen 9: 35-38). Then He gives them His authority with specific instructions to continue His work. It is a formidable *task-list*: preach the news that the Kingdom of Heaven is near; heal the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those who have leprosy; drive out demons; and all the time there is no *kit-list*! They are to trust that God will provide everything they need to carry out this mandate (Gen 10: 1-10).

Since the day of Pentecost worldwide, the Church in its many varieties has sought to be faithful to this calling. There have been many testimonies confirming that by God's Spirit, Jesus' work of the Kingdom of God continues to be done whether quietly like growing seeds and yeast in the dough, or with dramatic 'signs and wonders'. Today, 14th June 2020, His Kingdom has still not yet come in all its fullness, but we are to continue to pray for this great day. In the meantime, we do what we can, trusting that God will, in His time, honour His promise through His Son, Jesus, that the harvest will come.

And this is our mission, should we choose to accept it.....

So many in need,
No time to rest.
So many lost sheep,
So much to harvest.
Too few on the job,
So much to do.

Be part of my team,
There's work to be done.
Don't stop to prepare,
Take the minimum.
It's time to get going,
Follow my lead.

Go with a friend,
Walk round your town,



Knock on some doors
You'll find a welcome.
Share God's peace,
Bring God's healing.

Receive hospitality,
Say God is near.
Offer to pray,
God's stronger than fear.
Stay while you can,
Move on when you must.

Pass on what you have,
And do it for free.
Receive what they give;
Come labour with me