Sunday 16th June 2019 – Trinity Sunday – (Father’s Day)

Romans 5: 1-5

John 16:12-15

Aim - To teach about the Trinity

Theme – The role of the HS as a guide

Purpose – To see the hope and peace that comes from being a Christian

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable unto you O Lord.”

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

Today is Father’s Day. Like all parents, fathers don’t get a lot of peace.

How many of you are familiar with the book “Five minutes peace”?

It is about Mrs Large, but could just as easily have been about Mr Large.

**Sum up book** – heaven when she gets in the bath – for about 30 seconds. Then she gets 3 mins and 45 secs peace when she goes back to the kitchen before the children invade again!

All parents will know that peace can be elusive.

In my experience peace is often about relationships. If the relationships in our lives are going well then life is more peaceful.

Today is Trinity Sunday. It is when we look at the Trinitarian relationship of God being three in one.

 If it is hard for us to understand now, with 2000 years of teaching and history behind us, how difficult it must have been for the disciples to grasp the concept of the Trinity.

We start our exploration in John’s gospel.

The teaching on the Holy Spirit plays a larger role in the teaching of Jesus in John’s gospel than it does in any of the other gospels.

In our passage today Jesus looks at the role of The Holy Spirit for believers.

Jesus says that he has many things that he wants to say to the disciples, but that they are more than the disciples can bear.

This is thought to be because the disciples were not yet ready for all the implications of Jesus teaching.

Jesus is acknowledging that his disciples have more to learn. He does not want to teach them more than they are able to cope with.

Jesus has not yet died and been resurrected. They only have part of the story at this point.

In verse13 Jesus tells the disciples that the Spirit will guide them into all truth. In fact, Jesus calls the Spirit the Spirit of truth.

Just like children we cannot understand everything at once. We are constantly learning.

It is the same for us today. Our Christian journey is just that, a journey and, if we want to, we learn as we go along.

Jeff Lucas tells the story of the man who faithfully attends church every Sunday and listens avidly to the sermons. However, he always thought that the challenging sermons were for everyone else but him. He would always say something like “you really hit ‘em today. They need it. Well done.” It did not occur to him that he needed to be challenged to grow or change. One Sunday there was a big storm and this man was the only one in church. As he went he said “shame about the weather keeping the congregation away. They really needed to hear that one”.

We all have more to learn. Every time I write a sermon I learn more. The Holy Spirit is our guide.

The Holy Spirit does not work on his own. He is not separate to God the Father and God the Son.

We are told that the Holy Spirit only speaks what he hears, this is from God the Father and God the Son, the Holy Spirit only says what is revealed by God the Father and God the Son.

Then we get to this phrase “and he will tell you what is yet to come”. This does not mean that the Holy Spirit is a fortune teller. It is related to Jesus earlier statement about not telling the disciples more than they can bear.

It means that The Holy Spirit will teach us in due course as we are ready and as it is needed.

Jesus says of the Holy Spirit “he will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you”.

This is how we can test whether we think a message or teaching is from God.

If it fits in with all that we know from scripture about God then it is likely to be true.

We have the benefit of history; we know that God so loved the world that he gave us his only begotten son.

The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to Himself, but to the work of God through Christ.

In v15 Jesus says “All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you”.

There is no division in the Godhead. Jesus has what the Father has, and Holy Spirit makes it known.

Let us turn to our Roman reading for a moment.

It says “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

That peace does not come without a cost.

The reading does not shy away from the fact that there will be challenges if we follow Jesus.

Paul says “we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character, and character, hope”.

He goes on to say “we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”.

This is not about hope in the sense that we tend to use it every day. The definition of hope in the dictionary is “the feeling that what is wanted **can** be had or that events **will** turn out for the best”.

Hope in the Biblical sense is the **confidence** we have that the purpose for which God created us will be ultimately realized. This is not a vague hope if we commit our lives to following Jesus.

It goes on to say “God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us”.

I love that phrase “God has poured out his love”. This is not just a little bit of love. If you pour out you empty the container. God has given us all the love that he can by sending his son Jesus.

We have one God, by sending his son Jesus he has given us a way back to Himself and the Holy Spirit is God’s vehicle to help us now that Jesus is seated at the right hand on high.

Here we see the relationship of the Trinity.

That relationship happens in prayer too.

In John 14.13 we have the promise ‘and I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father’.

Here we see the relationship of the Son and the Father in the purpose of prayer. The Holy Spirit completes the involvement of the trinity in prayer.

Romans 8.26 tells us that ‘the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express’.

The importance of the role of the Holy Spirit is clear. When we don’t know what to say or how to say it the Spirit intercedes to help us.

The value of this intercession is that the Spirit intercedes in the true and proper way, which is in accordance with God’s will in that specific situation where prayer is needed.’

The peace that is being talked about in Romans is not a peace that depends on how we feel. It is a peace that comes from a relationship with God, that relationship is a gift from God through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Through Jesus we are justified by faith.

God is three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God loves us so much that he sent his only son Jesus to die on the cross and to rise again. God the Son and God the Father sent the Holy Spirit so that we could have a guide.

We all have more to learn.

Being in relationship with God brings us peace and gives us hope.

May God’s hope and peace be with you this week.

Amen