



GOD'S LIFE WITH US

Towards the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council in 1965, a new text was prepared on the Church's Mission by a small committee of bishops and theologians. Known as *Ad Gentes*, the Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity begins by locating the mission of the whole Church in the Mission of God.

The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature, since it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father. AG 2

In the close to 60 years since the conclusion of Vatican II, theological reflection on the Trinitarian God and on mission and evangelisation has continued. We continue to benefit from the reflections that bring life and invite fresh reflection on the central mystery of our faith, the Trinitarian God.



ONE GOD AS WORD AND SPIRIT

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
2 Corinthians 13:14

St Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth may have been written around thirty years after Jesus' resurrection. Much earlier than the first Gospel of Mark, which is thought to have been written around 70 AD

The familiar trinitarian greeting has surely come from the first Christian's reflections on their actual experience of the one God whom they had encountered in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Their experience also included Jesus profoundly present and active among them in a new way in the outpouring of the Spirit in their community at Pentecost. The Spirit who also formed them to continue the mission of God as disciples of Jesus .

LIVING GOD'S LIFE

*Living Trinitarian faith means living God's life;
living from and for God, from and for others ...
living Trinitarian faith means living together in
harmony and communion with every other
creature in the common household of God,
'doing all things to the praise and glory of God.'*

Catherine LaCugna
God for Us

Catherine LaCugna also writes that, Trinity is a practical doctrine with radical consequences for the Christian life ... a theology of relationship. Trinity also offers a framework for reflecting on our relationships with each other, our relationship with creation and the relationship between ourselves and God.

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD (John 3:16)

In the homily at his inaugural Mass as Bishop of Rome in 2015, Pope Francis proclaimed:

*Protect creation ... protect creation, the beauty of
the created world ... respect each of God's crea-
tures and respect the environment in which we live
... care for creation and for our brothers and sisters
.... Let us protect all that God has given us!*

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis includes the following quotation from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew:

*As Christians we are also called 'to accept the world
as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing
with God and our neighbours on a global scale. It is
our humble conviction that the divine and the human
meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment
of God's creation. LS 9*

In the final chapter of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis includes a section on the Trinity where he writes about the Trinity as the ultimate model for a relational universe. He quotes St Bonaventure as saying that the Trinity has left its mark on all creation and that 'before sin' human beings could recognise the reflection of the Trinity in all creation. (LS 239)

In pondering the web of relationships in creation he writes:

*The human person grows more, matures more and
is sanctified more to the extents that he or she
enters into relationships; going out from themselves
to live in communion with God, with others and with
all creatures. In this way they make their own that
trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them
when they were created. (LS 240)*

The way we imagine God has implications for the way we understand and commit ourselves to mission. God as communion overflowing with love and care for all creation speaks of mission that hears the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (LS49)

Praise the God of Creation
who made us to be in relationship.

Praise the Christ of Love
who calls us friends.

Praise the Spirit of Peace
who enables us to live in unity.

God has made our world
with its beauty and wonder
full of delights for us to explore.

Grant us wisdom to live gently in the earth,
Holding sacred the air and water, soil and sun.

God who has called human beings your children
made to share in the work of creation.

Grant us wisdom to live in harmony
with one another
holding sacred your image in everyone.

God , whose Spirit dwells within us,
giving us power to live in your name.
Grant us wisdom to discern your presence,
Holding sacred the glory of love in the everyday.

The Iona Community

