

Sermon Title: *“The Trinity” - what does it tell us about God*

Text: John 16:12–15

- **Misunderstandings about 'God':**

Many reject a false image of God — an authoritarian, distant figure — rather than the relational and loving God of Christian faith.
- **The Trinity as the antidote to atheism:**

The doctrine of the Trinity reveals a God who is relational, not abstract — one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **1. God is Big (Transcendence):**
 - God stands beyond time, space, and human logic.
 - We cannot fully grasp God through reason alone.
 - Like a painting doesn't fully reveal the artist, creation only hints at the Creator.
 - We can only know God because God chooses to reveal Himself.
- **2. God Has a History With Us (Incarnation):**
 - God creates with generosity and gives freedom.
 - God sustains creation and enters it through Jesus.
 - The story of Jesus is the story of God making Himself knowable.
 - Jesus' ascension is about bringing humanity home to the Father.
 - The Holy Spirit continues to connect our lives to God's story.
- **3. God Is Love (Relational Community):**
 - The Trinity is a relationship of perfect love — love given and received.
 - God's love overflows into creation, inviting us into that divine love.
 - We are made in God's image, finding meaning through relationship and self-giving.
 - Church is essential not just for personal spirituality but for discovering God through community.
 - We meet the God who is Trinity not in isolation, but through loving our neighbours.
- **Conclusion:**
 - The Trinity reveals a God who is transcendent, involved, and loving.
 - Our lives have meaning within God's story.
 - To know God is to live in love, in community, and in relationship — reflecting the life of the Trinity.

Questions:

1. **In John 16:13, Jesus says, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”**
How does this verse shape our understanding of the Holy Spirit’s role within the Trinity and in our lives today? How do you personally experience the Spirit “guiding” you?
2. **The sermon emphasises that the Trinity is not just a doctrine but an experience of God over time.**
Where in Scripture (or your own life) have you encountered God in the distinct persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? How do these encounters deepen your faith?
3. **Jesus says in verse 14, “He [the Spirit] will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”**
What does this mutual sharing and glorifying within the Trinity reveal about the nature of God? How might this influence the way we relate to others?
4. **The sermon draws a connection between God as Trinity and God as love.**
How does the relational nature of the Trinity help us understand the claim in 1 John 4:8 that “God is love”? What implications does this have for Christian community?
5. **Jonathan mentions that the Trinity means “our story is part of God’s story.”**
How does John 16:12–15 support this idea? How do we see the Spirit at work connecting our personal stories to the larger story of Jesus and the Father?
6. **The sermon challenges the idea that faith is purely personal by highlighting the importance of community.**
In what ways does understanding the Trinity call us toward community life (such as the church)? How does this contrast with more individualistic approaches to spirituality?