

Trinity Sunday 2020

A Sunburst of Celebration

Just where the White Nile leaves Lake Victoria in Uganda, there is a magnificent dam, the Owen Falls Dam. As a child I used to stand and marvel at the power of the water cascading through the sluice gates of the dam, beginning its long journey to the Mediterranean.

Here was the source of that remarkable river on whose banks Moses had stood in Egypt 3,000 years before and 3,000 miles downstream... the river that had saved his life and yet whose source and nature he hardly knew!

Today is Trinity Sunday..... a Sunday that often perplexes us, and yet, in the words of theologian Daniel Hardy it is: "the most exciting day of the year because it wraps up all the excitement of the other great festivals of the church's year into one sunburst of a celebration"

For the Trinity is not a theory about God.... rather it is like the Nile.... it is the dynamic cascading story of God bursting across the plains of human experience and flooding us with grace, compassion, love and life!

The Trinity is the very shape of God, for just as the river is one and yet can be distinguished into its source, estuary and stream, so the Christian community has found that the one God has been with us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Moses stood at the shore of the Nile aware of the Nile and its reality as a river, yet hardly aware of its dimensions nor of the way it had come to meet Him.

The story of Israel to the time of Jesus was a story of travelling in this river with increasing appreciation of its depths and wonder.

In Proverbs 8 we read about the sages of Israel grasping a pattern and order to the magnificent complexity of the world they saw about them. The universe carries the marks of the Creator within it who is the same Lord whom Moses had known and whose story the Israelite nation had been learning for over 1000 years

Yet Christians believe, it was with Jesus, that God came downstream to meet us and thereby brought the fullness of the story of this river of God into focus

It was Jesus Christ, who spoke of the source of this river as His Father, who named the stream of this river as the Holy Spirit and claimed to be the estuary of this river Himself !

It was through Jesus Christ that God as Trinity was made manifest, for it was in Christ that God reconciled the universe to Himself!

In Jesus, God had come down stream from the Father filled with the Spirit of God and had made known the mystery of this river of life!

And having entered the river of life through the estuary of Jesus Christ, our life as God's people is about going upstream, discovering more of the glory and wonder of God that is and has been cascading to meet us since the beginning of creation.

Not far from the Owen Falls Dam is a memorial to John Speke, the Victorian explorer who in the later 1850's believed he was the first person to see the source of the Nile!

Perhaps it was local hospitality that kept the truth from him, for of course, the Africans of that region had known that source for thousands of years!

The humbling thing about this great Trinitarian river of God is that we find others who have more closely approached the source... that great Lake Victoria, the Father.... and can deepen our vision of God in quite unexpected ways... we call them "THE SAINTS" ... those who are close to God.

And as we read in this week's Gospel: Matthew 28 v16-20, our Mission is to baptise new disciples in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, or, the words of our Diocesan Goals, to reach, grow and sustain in the name of the Trinity. Amen