

## Worship and witness

### Notes on the Bible readings

- Matthew 28.16-20 are the concluding words of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus gathers his disciples together on the mountain to speak his last words over them, before he ascends to heaven.

- In verse 17, Matthew explores how all the disciples worshipped Jesus, though some doubted. Even here, in this community of worship, there is room for those who have questions to ask.

- Jesus' final command to his followers (v.19) often loses its emphasis in translation: 'Go' is not the instruction, but rather, 'As you are going...make disciples.' The instruction is to make more disciples.

- The readings for today all share a focus on the importance of words – in creation, in reconciliation, in making new disciples. But these words are not to be empty; they become life-giving for the world when they derive their power from the very character of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This final commission is our commission too. Wherever we are going, we are to make disciples, passing on the story and bringing others into our family of faith.

#### Three stripes

The sports company Adidas' logo has a 'trefoil' and three horizontal stripes (meant to convey 'diversity', and all people in all places!).

Find other examples of things that have an element of 'three' to them – e.g. in the natural world, in maths/geometry, in human culture or business – anywhere at all! How might any of those 'things' be used to convey something about, or give you an opportunity to talk about, the nature of the Holy Trinity?

FREE [worship at home](https://www.rootsontheweb.com) resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: [www.rootsontheweb.com](https://www.rootsontheweb.com)

### Questions for reflection

- ▶ The excitement of this scene is not available to us at the moment; what does excite you in lockdown?
- ▶ How might you experience the power and excitement of worship, and continue to witness, in the current circumstances?



### A prayer of approach

*O God, you are at the heart of creation.  
Your word brings life into being;  
your peace gives living its fulfilment;  
your Spirit unites us into your Son.  
We draw near, seeking your love in our hearts;  
your wisdom in our minds; your power in our lives.  
Receive us with grace, in the name of your Son. Amen.*

### A prayer for others

*In homes filled with anger, cruelty and neglect;  
where there are no safe places;  
where poverty and addiction bring suffering and pain:  
God of peace, may your peace be known.  
To those whose minds are tormented by depression;  
to those whose hold on life is fragile;  
to those whose lives are filled with stress and fear:  
God of peace, may your peace be known.  
To those who are nearing the end of life;  
to those who love and care for them:  
God of peace, may your peace be known.  
May your peace be known to us,  
and may we be bearers of your peace in the world. Amen.*

### A personal prayer

*Dear God, may I  
Live  
In  
Faith  
Eternally.*

### Live your faith

Carry out three acts of 'faith sharing' this week. For example: offer a word of encouragement to someone you know; speak about your faith to a friend or family member; offer a gift to a charitable organization – all possible in lockdown!