

12th June 2022

Doors

“Jesus said: ‘I am the gate for the sheep ... I am the door.’”

Bible, John 10: 7, 9

Today is Trinity Sunday. Following Pentecost, the Church calendar reminds us of the Trinitarian nature of the Christian faith, the three-in-one, “Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” Greater theological minds than mine will expound on the meaning of the Trinity. So today, I’ll simply offer a picture ...

Like all churches, there are big doors to the sanctuary of Chalmers Memorial church, my local place of worship in my village. The doors are well built and heavy to move, but they do their job well, and, when they are open, offer a visible welcome to the House of God. Strapped almost all the way across both doors, there are studded hinges on which the doors hang to swing open. And on each door, there is a circular, wrought-iron handle. The doors wouldn’t open if there were no hinges, for they would simply be a continuation of the church’s walls. We wouldn’t be able to try to open the doors if there weren’t handles to grip and turn. Hinges alone, and there are no doors. No handles? No way of going inside.

Big doors ... hinges ... handles ... Each needs the other to make it work. And when that happens, the doors are able to open wide, and there are riches of fellowship and love, of Word and worship, to explore inside. Doors work if all the parts work together. Our large church doors are impressive. But I can’t go through them unless I have a handle to hold and turn. And when I push the door, the hinges have to provide the movement.

What is our gateway to wonder, fulfilment and joy? The great majesty of God. What can we get a handle on? The person and humanity of Jesus. What provides movement and workability? The Spirit of God. Our church doors: Father, Son and Holy Spirit ... The Trinity for me this year.

Like all metaphors, it won’t work for everyone all the time, and I expect I might have a new picture to help me with the Trinity next year. But then, that’s the nature of my God, who won’t be confined by words or image, by meaning or metaphor. So, if you’ll excuse me, I have some big doors to go through on this Trinity Sunday, and I can’t wait to find what wonders and joys are waiting for me on the other side.

A prayer for today

God, you are not to be confined. Show me who you are, just when I need you. Amen

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

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