Trinity Sunday C 2019

I once read a book called ‘Moondust’ In it the author speaks to the remaining astronauts who were part of the Apollo missions to the Moon. He is interviewing one of them, he writes ‘I tell him that I hate confined spaces and can’t imagine climbing into one of those tiny capsules. He looks at me with mild disbelief and says ‘Well I don’t know – you’ve got the whole Universe outside your window.’

If it is true that the whole universe is outside the windows of a space ship then it is true that it is outside the windows of this church – outside the windows of our houses – outside the windows of our places of work. We are part of the vastness of space – but surrounded by familiar things. Sometimes we can feel that these familiar things oppress us, confine us, restrict us – at worst depress us.

We have a feast today that tries to reconnect us with the universe – with wonder and awe; the profound and the unexpected. For we are swept up into the life of the Trinity. Science bravely struggles to describe us the limitless mystery of our Universe – our theology, similarly struggles to help us grasp something of the nature of God – the one who holds that Universe in being. Nothing is more familiar to us than the words ‘In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’ Yet they are a window beyond which lies so many astonishing things.

To help see the Trinity differently it may be as well to go backwards – starting with the Holy Spirit – the seemingly least significant one – as insignificant as oxygen – never noticed until it is gone – and life is gone with it. The Holy Spirit is the animator – the spark of life – the light of our minds – God active among us. We have flesh and blood lives to lead in a certain time and space – we know it is complex. We have an inner instinct to behave well, we have a desire to seek truth – but these get baffled and go astray. Where do we look for authority and guidance? – we look to the Son. He has come among us - he has walked with us – felt our pain and confusion – experienced the darkness of death – shown us how to live with one another and given us that most vital gift – Hope. Hope because our lives have meaning – we are part of a designed creation – not a meaningless detail in an insignificant corner of the vast Cosmos – because our lives were willed into being by God the Father – for whom creating and loving are the same thing.

So for today we can forget being ordinary – and look out of the window to see the vast universe around us – taken up as we are into infinite, mysterious the life and love of the Trinity. A wonder we acknowledge every time we say ‘In the name of…..