



**Trinity Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
**Sermon for 10.00am Eucharist at St Andrew's Parish Church Guernsey**  
**Readings: Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end and St Matthew 28: 16-20**  
**Given by Rev Juliette E C Robilliard**

I mentioned in one of my Midweek Musings that my childhood habitual ramble was to walk around St Saviour's Reservoir. I adore that walk even today: for me it's a place of recreation, solitude and vitality. You will doubtless recall that if you stand on the parapet facing the water, there are three distinct arms, one pointing east, one south where you can glimpse St Saviour's Church on the horizon and the third arm on the western side. If you walk around the perimeter of the reservoir you will know that each loop around the three arms has a different personality. Walk with me now in your mind's eye.

I usually park near St Saviour's Church and walk through the green lane at Sous L'Eglise, down to the tip of the central arm of the reservoir. Walking through the gate and onwards can make you feel like a rabbit going down a rabbit hole. There is a high bank on one side, with the water on the other. The further you walk along trees close over your head so that at some point you can't actually see the water but you know it's there. That is rather like the mystery of Father God: we cannot see him but we know he's there for we can see his works in all creation.

'Doubtless, biologists would say that creation is just the start of evolution. I'm not denying that evolutionary processes have taken place over the passage of time, however, I do believe that a divine hand caused their inception, progression and development. Isaiah, speaking of God, puts it more poetically 'He ... has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span.' Or, to bring you back down to earth with the reservoir walk, when one sees sunlight parking on the water, scientists will explain that this is merely the refraction of light through the air on the denser water. Maybe! But who can explain why, I find it beautiful? That is God's creation speaking to my heart, mind and spirit. To relate to God, all we need do is open our eyes physically and spiritually, to know that he is there.

Moving further round the reservoir, eventually the walk peters out at the bottom of the Neuf Chemin and it's necessary to take to the road to walk around the tip of the eastern arm. During COVID lockdown any number of people crossed my path and most exchanged a greeting, whereas others buzzed passed on their bikes, cars and vans. All life is there and that's just the sort of road Jesus walked in his life and ministry. He met people where they were walking to work; to market or to worship in Jerusalem. His one aim was to draw people closer to his Father's heart. Engaging with Jesus' example for living, ministry and mission can be like the speeding traffic or the strolling walkers, we can either pause and engage or, we can ignore Jesus' message of salvation hurrying on in our own little bubble, oblivious to how far adrift from God's will we have travelled.

Continuing over the parapet into the western arm there the tangy smell of pine resin wafts on the wind from the many trees growing in that area. You can't actually see the essence moving in the atmosphere but you know what it is. That speaks to me of the Holy Spirit. Similar to the wind, which powerful force can invigorate when we feel depleted, just so the Holy Spirit offers us so many diverse gifts to help nourish not only our spirituality but each aspect of daily living. Like any gift, however, it's useless if it stays unwrapped in the presentation box. Just as Jesus' urged his disciples to initiate baptism for others, so the inception of the Spirit in our lives, is conferred at baptism. But, the only way we will develop in faith and progress beyond inception is to produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. How I wish I could say I exuded all of those! If we find ourselves out of sorts with our fellow human-beings, it's likely that we are not nurturing ourselves with the Holy Spirit's sustenance.

Our walk around the reservoir with the three persons of the Holy Trinity is almost complete. What I've not yet done is draw the paths together. How is it that God is one in three and three in? one? Think of it this way, if you draw a glass of water from a tap, you cannot say 'Ah! That was water taken from the eastern arm of the reservoir or the south or west.' No, the water tastes exactly the same day-in-day-out, just as God sustains us day-in-day-out or, as Isaiah says, 'He does not grow faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.' Let's give the last word to Jesus who in the Gospel says, 'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' May we live in accordance with that certainty and show it forth in our lives.

Amen