In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen.

One of the things that I miss at the moment is being able to baptise. Being able to welcome people into the church and mark the beginning of their Christian journey. At baptisms I often use the Gospel reading that we have just heard. Remembering that we are following Jesus’ commandment to make disciples of all nations and baptising them in the name of the Holy Trinity.

In baptism, the symbols that we use are as powerful as the words. And the most important symbol is of course water. We have enjoyed some lovely sunny days in May but now I’m thankful for the rain which our farms and gardens so desperately need. Water is essential to all of life. We cannot live without it. Before we are born we grow in the waters of the womb. And through the waters of baptism we are born again. Water is also a symbol of cleaning and the waters of baptism also represent the way in which our sins are washed away.

Water, H2O, is amazing stuff. It has two atoms of hydrogen and one of oxygen, a holy trinity that is fundamental to creation. And it comes in three different forms. Water. Ice and steam. Each with their own particular properties. For instance, most substances, when they get colder, contract, get smaller. But as water freezes it expands. And that enables it to float on our ponds and as icebergs. And that allows all the creatures that live under the water to survive during cold weather.

So each of these three forms of water have different qualities but they have the same molecular structure. They are all H2O. And that gives us a way into the Holy Trinity that we celebrate today. God the Father has revealed himself as the creator, the one who measured the waters in the hollow of his hand. The Father sent the Son, Jesus, the word incarnate, who lived among us, died and rose again. And the Holy Spirit whom we celebrated last week at Pentecost, empowers us to be the Church, helps us to understand the Bible, and enables us to share the good news. Each person of the Trinity has different qualities but they are all part of the one God.

The Holy Trinity lives in a perfect community of love. But love cannot exist only for itself. It must always reach out and share with others. To use another analogy, the Holy Trinity is a bit like what we are doing now on YouTube/Zoom. Sending words and pictures, data, out across the internet. The Father is the sender, the creator. And he sends the Son, the word, out into the world. And he does it by means of the Spirit, which is a bit like the internet itself. The communicator, the one who connects us.

The Holy Trinity is always abundantly generous, hospitable and creative. And so out of its love the universe was born. And out of that love we were created. Each one of us is made in God’s image and likeness to reflect God’s love to the world. To share in God’s mission. And to live in community. Like the Trinity we have different qualities. Different gifts. But we share a common humanity. God weeps when he sees us divided. When we forget that we are all made in God’s likeness, and fail to love one another as he loves us. The Trinity points us towards unity in diversity. And as members of God’s people it is our job to bring healing and reconciliation with justice to our fractured world.

Being baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is a really big deal. It’s a recognition that we are created by God. That we are redeemed, made new, by the Son. And that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. It’s an acknowledgement that we are born out of the love that the Holy Trinity shares. In baptism we become members of the church which is called to reflect the Trinity’s community of love and to share that love with the world. To be part of God’s mission. It’s good for us to recognise and celebrate these things and it will be wonderful to be able to baptise again but in the meantime, the Trinity continues to work in, through and around us. And we can always be part of its life. Amen.