

On behalf of the Community a very warm welcome to each and every person today to this celebration of community. We have travelled the road of exploring the multiple faces of community through the magic of zoom with the help of so many wonderful people – theologians – community builders – ordinary people – us.

We have seen each others living rooms and top halves for the last 8 months and now here many of us are gathered together and it's great to be together.

We have spoken of all sorts of communities – including our own zoom community that we have gathered – but physical presence to each other gives us a new dimension to celebrate.

Maybe you have journeyed as I have with the questions – unsure of what community really is and how communities are formed – and maybe not found the answers – but realise that the real gift are the questions and the searching – and not the answers.

So for me we are here to continue the exploration and maybe each of us has a few words that we can think of which are most related to community

Just spend a moment thinking what those two or three words might be.

The Trinity offers us a precious gift of relationship, a grounded connection with God, self, others and the world. ---a way of living, loving and relating.

During this pandemic, I realized more and more that we are all together in a web of mutual interdependence. When we recognize this on a spiritual level, we call it *love*. – a community of love where everyone has a place – a voice; a place where everyone is loved and where everyone matters.

How wonderful – how good and how pleasant it is when brothers – and sisters – live in unity. – the dream we have been gifted with in the psalms

Thank you to the organising group who have got us to this place of knowing and unknowing - - realising that we are built for community and aware that the perfect community that we have dreamt of and the psalms described doesn't come without a huge amount of grace, prayer and effort.

We believe that together we have built a community of faith where each one of us matters, - where each one of us cares for each other and beyond - - engined by our faith which helps us to pick ourselves and each other up when we fall and fail.

Thank you for being here and for building the dream and the reality together.