Sermon: **Holy, holy, holy! The Lord Almighty is holy! His glory fills the world** (Isaiah 6.3)

Wendy McArthur’s book ‘What’s in a Name?’ – some Invercargill streets have full explanation, some none.

God can seem like the latter, mysterious, unreachable, unknowable.

One way to describe God is by use of negatives – not changing, not limited, not visible, not able to die…

Eg Hymn – Holy, holy, holy! It might mean God becomes distant, unconnected, unemotional. TEXT.

But as Christians we have Jesus. People noted he was different (quality of his personality, actions, speech, attitudes), but Jews could not see him as God (Ex 33.20: **no-one may see me and live**).

Only after Resurrection did disciples realise that when they looked at Jesus they saw God, and lived!

That is a good thing, and a bad thing! Good, because God now has a human face, makes more sense.

Bad in that we might assume that in Jesus we see all of God, that God is somehow tamed.

Some styles of worship and talk of God as if ‘pal in the sky’, around whom we can be casual, comfortable; merely a special human. But this misses something vital.

Ever had a magic moment, time stood still? All was crystal clear? Felt overwhelmed by something ‘beyond’?

Bigger than ‘headteacher’ experience – scary, because remote.

Rudolf Otto’s “numinous,” = beyond anything we can rationally describe. Attractive yet unexplainable.

So we pretend that nothing really happened - merely imagination, or emotion. But it did happen & was real.

Some of our life forgets how awesome God is. We come on Sundays meet with friends, listen to music, and all is cosy, warm, welcoming. When folk make mistakes or fools of themselves we laugh with or at them.

In meetings we might share an opening prayer, then conduct our business.
In all of this we so easily forget we are meeting in God’s presence!

The same God that made the Universe! The same God that gives life to all! The same God who is utterly different, utterly Awesome. It is amazing that this God takes any notice of us, loves us completely, welcomes us into his presence. TEXT. This God is seen in creation, in history, in experience, in Church tradition.

This should change our view of worship, meetings held in God’s name. But also change how we live in the whole of life, how we shop, how we talk, how we make love, how we engage with friends and strangers. Trinity Sunday is a time to realise how much God is beyond our understanding. This is truly vital. TEXT.