

May 22, 2016
Trinity Sunday
The Rev. Laura Blazek

As human beings we are geared to discover that which is unknown. As the Trekkies say, “to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before.” We hate to be in the dark. We have this insatiable need to be able to explain everything, to figure out how something works, to solve puzzles and mysteries, to know. They say knowledge is power but it is also control. And we tend to want to be in control so that we can achieve what we think we need. Being in control is comfortable and safe; being out of control is not.

When we ask the question “why” the last answer we want to hear is “because”. But as I remember explaining to my son one time when he asked why $2+2=4$, some things just are. He was less than satisfied by that answer, but it was the best one I could give.

Today, we are faced with the problem of $1+1+1=1$, which makes absolutely no sense in our minds or our world. This is the conundrum of the Trinity. Our logical minds tell us that this can't be. That $1+1+1=3$ not 1 and yet it does. The whole concept of the Trinity is difficult to wrap our minds around and honestly, it just makes my brain hurt to think about.

For me, trying to explain the Trinity is as elusive as trying to put this sermon together. Concepts and ideas and understanding just at the end of fingertips only to slip out of my grasp. It is like trying to catch a wave rolling up onto the seashore. I am not going to try to explain the Trinity to you. I will leave that to the scholars who have written countless papers and books on the subject. To me, some things just are, and the Trinity is one of them. I'm not even sure the Trinity can ever be truly explained. How do you explain love? It just is.

I look at the world around me- the trees, the flowers; even the duckbill platypus and I see the Trinity in action. I look at all of you, and I see the Trinity in action. God called all of it and all of us into being, the Son molded us and is present with us, and the Spirit breathed life into it all and remains within it. In our gospel reading today Jesus says, “All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that [the spirit] will take what is mine and declare it to you.” Put another way, everything belonging to the Father belongs to the Son; everything belonging to the Son belongs to the Spirit; everything belonging to the Spirit belongs to us, to all of creation. The Trinity dwells in all of us.

The Trinity is one of things that we must accept with faith. It is that faith that allows us, as Paul writes, “to have peace with God.” Paul wasn't talking about just an absence of guilt or stress but something much broader and deeper. It is the connotation of the word ‘peace’ that Paul is referring to- completeness, wholeness, well-being and harmony. The peace to which Paul is

referring is the fullness of life that comes from a shared life in relationship to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In any relationship there is ebb and flow, a giving and a taking, like the waves upon a seashore. Waves bring with them shells, rocks, and other things from the deep that are deposited upon the shore as the waves break and return to the sea. But the waves don't leave empty handed as it were. As they return to the sea they take grains of sand and other things from the beach returning those things to the depths of the ocean. Both the waves and the beach are transformed and changed. So it is with Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and us.

We are part of that dynamic relationship that changes and transforms each member as we interact with one another. As the Rev. Peter Scholtes wrote in his song in 1966, "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord". The song continues, "We will work with each other, we will work side by side. And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride, and they'll know we are Christians by our love." God is love. Christ is love. Holy Spirit is love. We are love.

It is that love and the relationship we have with God that completes us, makes us whole and brings us peace. This peace is for everyone. We are called by Christ to bear witness to the world the love of God that brings joy not just to us but to God. When our words and actions toward our neighbor is one of agape love then we are also showing that same love to God. By the same token when we mistreat, ignore, oppress, belittle, or hurt another human being we are hurting God. How much closer to the Kingdom of Heaven would this world be if we saw each and every encounter with another human being as an encounter with the Holy Trinity? Because that is what our lives are, a daily encounter with the divine, with the Holy Trinity. When we extend the peace of God to others both of us are transformed and changed just like the waves and the beach.

It is in the dynamic relationship with the Trinity that we find hope, because God's love has been poured into us. We are embraced in God's arms finding safety and rest as we sink into them, knowing that we are loved no matter what the rest of the world says. Even when we have to leave that embrace to face the world, we do so not by ourselves but with the full strength of the Holy Trinity within us and beside us. And in the midst of the chaos and the stresses of everyday life when the happenings in the world around us threaten to crush us, we have only to take a moment to be still and focus on the Trinity within to find ourselves wrapped in the unending love of God giving us strength to move on.

When I look around, not just here in this space, but also out in that crazy mixed up world, I see hope, because I see the unending love of the Trinity working in the world through us.

May the peace of God be with you today and forever more.

Amen.