

## Trinity Sunday

If we were in church today we would be singing the wonderful words from St. Patrick's Breastplate, the glorious hymn we heard at the beginning of the service: "I bind unto myself this day, the strong name of The Trinity". The Trinity: one God, three in one, one in three. It's a somewhat clumsy attempt on the part of human beings to describe a sacred mystery that is impossible to reduce to words. The Trinity speaks of the uniqueness of the Godhead. We see complete unity in the diverse expressions of God – the Creator of all that has being, all that fills our world today; the Holy Spirit who gave birth to all created beings and still breathes life into every part of creation and the incarnational presence of God in Jesus who revealed God's love in every step he took as he showed us God's love in human form.

When I think of the Trinity, I think of love, powerful, life-giving love. I remember that Trinity helps us glimpse the mystery of the self-giving, life-creating love that is God, love that is constantly reaching out to the other, affirming the other, enjoying the difference of the other – love poured out freely, extravagantly without any thought of reward, and always flowing back into the loving relatedness that is the Mystery we call God.

The Trinity constantly calls us beyond ourselves to explore the mystery of the sacred. One writer spoke of this day as "the day we are called to radical amazement, to awe and wonder, to the quest for beauty, and the commitment to love and create in the spirit of our Dynamic God. Today, we celebrate a God who is still creating, who speaks in diverse ways, whose creativity and redemption embraces all creation, and who challenges us to go beyond all exclusive, divisive theologies to affirm the wonders of God's creative love."

Knowing that God is a dynamic God who is still calling life into being, creating and re-creating, means that in the end we have nothing to fear. Some of you may be a bit like me. When I make a mistake, I can spend a long time condemning myself for doing the wrong thing. When any of us fall into the trap of condemning ourselves or others for making mistakes, we fail to recognize the presence of our Creator God who is able to bring new from old and good from not so good. Whatever your mistake, you will not stop the world, you will not stop a new day coming. All any of us needs to do is turn to God our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. God who is always in the process of redemption, bringing new from what is old, life from death, allowing this world and everything in it to evolve. We see it in the birth and death of new stars and galaxies – in the birth of baby birds in their parent's nests. In my own life, I have seen God bring wonderful things from mistakes, or losses or even trauma and tragedies.

At this time, people in our nation and people around the world are reeling from the terrible death of George Floyd something many consider a modern-day execution. His killing cannot be condoned under any circumstances. Yet, if this tragedy can break open our hearts – teach us to really listen – give us courage to look more honestly at ourselves – and work for equal justice and mercy we will perhaps gain a new and deeper understanding of the suffering that people

with brown and black skin have endured for hundreds of years at the hands of white skinned people and his death will not have been in vain.

There is a new push for change underway in this country and round the world, a push that is fueled by the energy of our younger generation. They are stepping up in an attempt to begin the creation of a new, more just society where as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, all children will grow up in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I believe that the Spirit of our loving God is at work in this strange time of pandemic and marches for equal justice, creating new possibilities and hope for a more just and caring world.

The mystery of the Trinity speaks to us of unity in diversity. It reminds us that in God there is no hierarchy, or inequality, no domination or desire to control. At the very heart of God there is no uniformity, because right from the beginning God's love flowed outward, first among the persons of the Trinity and then to the creation of the universe. And we only have to look at the world around us to see how much God enjoys diversity - the many shapes and sizes of creatures of all kinds, the varieties of fish and so many things unseen by the naked eye. Our world depends upon diversity for its very existence.

We will only find the ability to create authentic community here at St. Peter's when we recognize and honor the value of every person who chooses to walk with us simply because they are created by God, each one a unique and irreplaceable part of the world. We will create a joyful authentic community at St. Peter's when we open our doors and go outside our comfort zone to seek out friendships with people who look and act differently from us. The "other" will help us break down walls we have built for self- protection over the years. I remember the impact Jeremiah had on our community, Jeremiah, who came to us as a woman before telling us that he considered himself male. I remember how folks here accepted and supported the change he wanted to make. How many friends he made here before he died, and how much he taught us about simply loving one another for who they are.

Young people in our country are looking for ways to build authentic community, a national sense of unity in diversity. They are not seeking the kind of uniformity that can be achieved by force, coercion, shame and fear but the kind of human community that can only be achieved when diversity is desired and protected (taken from the writings of Richard Rohr). Our nation will thrive when we begin to value the unique gifts of every person and provide for one another whatever each needs to thrive, recognizing their unique value. So let each of us bind unto ourselves today the strong name of the Trinity because in the end, in the words of Anne Lamott, "We don't need to understand the hypostatic unity of the Trinity; we just need to turn our lives over to whoever came up with redwood trees."