

SERMON TRINITY SUNDAY 6-11-17

This morning we celebrate Trinity Sunday, one of the most elusive mystery's of our faith. In today's world we are so cleaved to science, technology, and the "show me" frame of mind there is little tolerance or desire to believe in the mystery. How, we ask, are we supposed to believe that there is one true God when the Bible so clearly talks about a father and a son and a spirit? **REALLY**. It just doesn't make any sense and we believe we have no time to dwell on what that mystery means in or lives in this crazy world. Most of the commentaries caution the preacher about trying to defend the doctrine of the Trinity and I won't try to defend it, but I'd like for us to try and explore, for just a few minutes how it impacts what our Gospel this morning is charging us to do and be as church and disciples.

I remember a conversation I had one day with Fr. Paul Tanis as I was struggling with the concept of the Trinity. Fr. Paul is a reformed church minister, who was an associate here at St. Peter's for many years. As I shared my struggle with him he said, "This the best I can offer you, Kath, is this, "Some days I'm Paul the father to my son, some days I'm Paul the son to my parents, all days I'm Paul the Pastor to the congregation, sometimes I'm Paul the husband, Paul the brother, or Paul the friend. I'm called to be many things to many people and God gives me what I need to touch all those people, but at the end of the day, I'm just one and the same Paul." That really made sense to me and made my struggle with the Trinity much lighter.

Now we come to the charge to us in this morning's gospel and what the Trinity has to do with it. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Jesus stands with his disciples and sends them out to **all** nations. He sends them to the ends of the earth to teach and draw all people to God through the power and authority of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are sent out to be church in a world where there is no church of a Triune God. They are equipped with the promise that God will be with them always and off they go.

This morning we receive that very same charge, but we have far more experience, with worship, meditation, ministry, and church and **still** we struggle mightily. Why is it that we use up so much energy wondering **WHAT** God is rather than **WHO** he is and who he calls us to be. We are embraced in the arms of a loving, living Triune God. God the Father, the creator, calls us to be co-creator's with him, to participate in creating a just and peace filled world. God the Son, the redeemer, and healer, who calls us to give up those things that paralyze us with fear and indifference and to reach with the loving hands and heart of God and be the redeeming, touch of God in this broken world. God, the Holy Spirit who sustains us, moves us, and gives us the strength and courage to put aside our fears so that we may have abundant life and give abundant life in the name of our God.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Not **so** difficult to understand. Each of us, however, are individuals and experience God in our own ways, but to pretend the Trinity doesn't exist robs us of fully experiencing our awesome loving, healing, life giving God. At the end of the day our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one and the same God. We are equipped with all that God is and all that God gives and being sent out today, and every day, to all nations to be Earth makers, pain bearers, and life givers. We do not go alone. He is with us always to the end of the age. Amen