

Last week we began the journey through the season of the life in the Spirit, the season of Pentecost; the season that lives into the promise that God is with us, among us and in us. It's all about Relationship.

Today we continue with Trinity Sunday.

Now the notion of the Trinity is an attempt to understand God and by the way if anyone claims to understand God, don't walk away - Run!

In truth the only thing that we can understand about God is that God cannot be fully understood. [PAUSE] But God CAN be experienced.

For those of you who have been in church-land for sometime, I am sure that you have heard analogies and metaphors to describe and define the Trinity. Things like God is like H<sub>2</sub>O: liquid water, ice and steam. Or maybe you've heard that God is like a three leaf clover, one clover-3 leaves.

Metaphor and examples can be helpful ways of trying to understand something that is a mystery.

We believe that there is one God and three persons. Not three gods. This is Spiritual

Math:  $1 + 1+1 = 1$ .

So this is how our beliefs lead us to the notion of a Trinitarian God

We believe that there is God the Father, who send the Son, to take human flesh to be among us and show us God, to show us the path to God.

And, we believe that when the Son went back to the Father He sent the Holy Spirit to come and live with us; to gather us in; to be with us to teach us things in a timely manner.

Now to be honest, I can follow that but if I come back to the idea of One God, my brain shorts circuits. Is it one God, or 3?  $1 + 1+1=1$  If we look at the Old Testament, the First testament, we seem to have a god of Wrath, slow to anger- but angry - at our Sin. And in the New Testament, we seem to have a God of Love.

Does that make 2 gods? Did God change?

And who cares? [PAUSE]

I dont think that God changes. I think that what changes is our understanding of God.

Our understanding of the ocean changes from the first time we stand on the beach to when we are on a boat in our fifties.

I also think that is helpful to view today as a time to explore the nature of God, God's characteristics.

Jesus promises us that the Holy Spirit will teach us things as we journey through life and will only teach us what we can bear at any given time.

What we can bear to understand when we are five is VERY different to what we can understand when we are 35 or 85.

Richard Rohr has written a great book on the trinity called the Divine Dance. In it he invites us to look at the Trinity starting with One and move to three. [PAUSE]

Our Hebrew sisters and brothers have this concept of HESED- which means covenant love or **steadfast** love. This is the kind of Love that God has for us.

We can make this Sunday about Doctrine but I think it is more helpful to look at this Sunday as a day to explore what Kind of God we have, what are the defining characteristics of a God we can never fully understand.

It's all about Relationship with God and with each other.

We can have experiences of God. And our experiences will differ based on where we are in our lives trusting that God meets us where we are!

So rather than seeing God as static, unchanging. Uniform. Demanding. What if our starting point of viewing is that our God, the One who was - is - and ever will be, is the ONE who created EVERYTHING and is perfect UNITY and Diversity. Is Perfect LOVE.

What if our starting point is that God:  
Father/Mother, Son and Holy Spirit is fully  
Diverse perfect unity. Perfect Love.  
Dynamic, flowing, on the move. Communal  
and hospitable. Perfect Love [PAUSE]

AND and that we are created in the image  
of God! Black / White. Tall / Short. Male  
Female... and everything in-between we  
are all, each and everyone of us, in our  
diversity, were created in the image of the  
One who created us. How is that for  
Diversity.

AND and if all of this is true. What we  
can count on is that God is a God of  
Relationship. God is Relationship: Father/  
Mother, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. A  
community of Love in perfect Relationship.  
This is what we are being invited into. We  
are being invited to be in unity in  
communion with this Holy Trine God.  
[PAUSE] Does that make a Quadrinity  
[PAUSE]

The promise that we can hold onto is that the Holy Spirit who is with us, guides us and teaches us about Jesus and the nature of God calls us into community.

Lets call that church. And AND the Holy Spirit strengthens us to continue the work of Jesus- that is what we are called to do

The Holy Spirit call us as a community to look outside ourselves. to look outward as well as upward.

To be oriented to the well being of others, starting with each other- those gathered here today and who are part of this community. [PASUE]

Our calling is to share God's nature with each other to help each other be in community with the Divine Trinity.

More than that we are also called to share God's nature with others outside our community so they to can see more clearly God's nature and be drawn into relationship with God.

It's all about Relationship [PAUSE] It's ALL about Relationship.

If nothing else please remember that God is Relationship and seeks Relationship with each of us.

The question we are left with is will we move into this Relationship or away from it! Will we help others move into this Relationship or ... not.

So this week I invite you to remember, to keep in the forefront of your thoughts that Love is not something you do; love is someone you are. It is your True Self.

Love is where you came from and love is where you're going. It's not something you can buy. It's not something you can attain. It is the presence of God within you, called the Holy Spirit.

Or if you prefer, this week I invite you to watch. Look at others, in the eyes, look at actions of those around you and see God see love in the diversity of the person in front of you ant any given time.

Finally I invite you to reflect on your breathing. YHWH is the name given to Moses by God.

No one would dare say it. You, we can never say “God” and know what we are talking about, but we can breathe God.

As you breathe in listen for the sound YAH and exhale and hear WAY. The first word we ever “spoke” when we came out of our mother’s body and took our first breath- was this Sacred Name. And it will be the last thing we speak before we are brought back into full unity of Love.