

“O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name
in all the earth!” AMEN!

We gather in the name of the _____,
and of the _____,
and of the _____.

You know the names.

They are each in the Bible.

The names of God often begin our worship and
can be found in the blessing at the conclusion.

The three revelations of God:
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Theologians of the church would develop
the doctrine of the Trinity centuries
after Paul wrote his letter to
the church in Rome;

The doctrine that came centuries after
Jesus walked the earth as a
traveling preacher, miraculous healer,
and defender of the poor and marginalized;
long after his crucifixion and resurrection.

Yet, here we are, now centuries later!

Taking time to understand what theologians
concluded could help us understand God.

Which the Bible says we can't do!

We cannot fathom the unfathomable,
grasp the ungraspable, nor limit the limitless.

But, we still try!

There's still a Sunday carved out of
the church year that pays tribute to
the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

Pastors will get up and try, yet again,
to explain the unexplainable, but all
we really need to do is read again verse 12

Where Jesus said: "I still have many things
to say to you, but you cannot bear them now."

There are many things about God
that we'll never fully know because
we cannot bear them now.

And we just kinda

need to be ok with that.

To trust that it is ok to not understand
everything about God.

I don't!

No one does and I question the integrity of
anyone that says otherwise.

When someone claims to have all
the answers about God they're almost
always hiding something.

And that something is... human, broken,
fallible, and incomplete.

Which we are one and all! (Pause)

So Paul, in his letter to the Roman Church
behaved as a fallible pastor ought.

He was trying to solve a particular problem.

That problem was how can Jewish people
along with all the other nations conquered
by Rome come together and
break bread at the same table?

And the imperfect Pastor Paul went into
an eloquent argument of defense about
how we build character and
the production of a never-
disappointing hope which finally
boils down to this:

God's love poured out and into
the hearts of people.

Paul worked out the way for
radically different cultures, religious practices,
legal barriers, languages, and histories
can be a participant at the same
table of fellowship.

Paul wrestles with how peoples so
different from one another can share in
the same church body, the same
gathered assembly, even though

they spent centuries (or more) separated
and suspicious of one another.

It is through, and only through,
the Holy Spirit's pouring out of God's love
upon and into the hearts of human beings

that the Jews and the Gentiles,

who were more likely to hate each other,
fight each other to attain power,
deny each other places at the table
can now worship together.

This deeper understanding of relationship
is the definition of the Trinity.

A relationship of the way God
makes God's-self visible.

The way God chooses to be made known.
And that is the Trinity!

The way God is made known.

We do well in asking ourselves each day,
“How or where in our lives is God being
made known to us?” (Pause)

Last weekend, most of you know we
participated in the synod assembly.

The first time in 3 years we have gathered as
the body of Christ in the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

It was at a large hotel in Orlando and
there happened to be another large
women's group there having an event in

the banquet room right next to ours.

We'd encounter them around the hotel.

They spoke languages other than English but
we'd greet one another in passing or
on the elevator.

And they had their banquet room and we had ours in the
convention center.

And on occasion, they'd
play really loud music.

I mean we could hear the bass
pumping through the walls,
it was so loud and distracting
to important events reported in
the synod assembly.

We found out it was a women's Pentecostal group
that gathered for their annual event.

They were women from different cities and
countries that would come to a secret place,
different each year, to gather to pray
and worship together.

Now, you now Pentecostals, right?!

Speaking in tongues,
a lot of body movement, and
(at least with this group) a lot of loud music!

Sometimes it was distracting!

I wondered if someone should inform
the convention staff to ask
them to keep it down?

Some time later, we found out that an assistant
on the bishop's staff did go next door
to speak with the group.

But, it wasn't to ask them to turn it down.

He went over to say that if the hotel staff asks
them to turn it down,
the request didn't come from us.

He also said that they were praising God and
that was what we were doing too.

They invited him to come into
their convention hall room and he witnessed
them (under the direction of their leader)

with their palms up and on the same wall
that divided our meeting spaces and

they pressed their hands to the wall and
were actively engaged in praying for us!

When the assistant on the bishop's staff
saw this, and then spoke to the prayer leader
through an interpreter,

he told us that she said that they felt moved
by the Holy Spirit, just before he came in,
to lay hands on that mobile partition and
to pray for us on the other side!

He then told us that his eyes
began to fill with tears... and that he is
not one who usually cries! :-)

And, get this, when they witnessed his emotion
they called him up on stage and gave
him a microphone! :-)

In that Holy Spirit/Pentecost moment
he proclaimed there is "no Jew nor Gentile,
no man and woman" and
we are all children of the same God.

The next day, we invited them to come over
to our space and give us a greeting.

This was a table fellowship moment.

Five women entered and we stood
to welcomed them by applause.

Bishop Suarez greeted them and they spoke
to one another in Spanish for a minute.

The prayer leader of the women's assembly
was then invited to speak to our assembly
from the microphone through a translator.

It was a Pentecost/Holy Spirit moment as
she brought greetings and calls for unity with
an urgency appropriate for this age.

This was a manifestation of the Holy Trinity.

We saw God being made known.

God was visible in that room
as we sang "Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!"
(Pause)

If you've forgotten that
the power of Christ is still working among us,
be encouraged by this witness.

Tears lead to testimony and love,
the kind that flows from brokenness,

and the kind that brings about a
different sort of life.

A life where God is seen and made known
and cultures once thought to be
competitors or enemies
become companions.

AMEN!