

It's a running joke in the Deacon community that Trinity Sunday is the designated day that preaching is passed on to the Deacon. In my 9 years of being a Deacon, I've been lucky. I only had to preach Trinity Sunday once. This year, it happens to fall into the rotation. Once again, just like Lucy gets to hold the football for Charlie Brown, the Deacon gets Trinity Sunday preaching duty.

These past weeks our lessons remind me of Peter Frampton's song I'm In You. I'm in you, you're in me goes the lyrics. Jesus reminds us that The Father is in him, He is in the Father, and the Holy Spirit is in both. Its enough to make one get dizzy with the constant circling of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

We know that all three were there at the beginning of creation. We know that God was with Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, and the rest of the Old Testament patriarchs. Jesus was with the Apostles and people of that time, and now. the Holy Spirit is with us. Jesus tells us that The Holy Spirit will remind us of all He has said.

In our current times, sometimes it feels like we're all alone, surrounded by hate, murder, human trafficking, war, a world spinning out of control with us lost and hopeless in the middle of it. It seems hopeless, like we are not in control. Our elected officials cannot find a middle ground to re-examine our gun laws and to help our people get the mental health care they need. We glorify guns. Some folks feel they need that bigger gun to compensate for their shortcomings. Hate crimes against Black, Latino, Asian, native Americans, and LGBT Americans are on the rise, fueled by endless squawking coming from some media circles, white

supremacist groups, and Christian nationalists. We seem lost in the vacuum that tries to suck us into the hate, conspiracy theories, mistrust, and misinformation spinning recklessly around us. What can we do to stop the madness?

We are hurting. Paul tells us *we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

Yes, there is hope. All we need to do is open our hearts to what The Spirit is saying. We need to be moved by The Spirit. How many more people need to die? How many more assault weapons will be accessible to people who should not be allowed to have them? How much more hate talk, and political gridlock must we be exposed to?

*Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given us.*

God has given us hope, God has given us The Holy Spirit. God's Love has given us His only begotten Son. God and Jesus speak to us via The Holy Spirit. Why aren't we paying attention to what the Spirit is telling us? Why do we let the wax build up in our ears, plugging them to what The Spirit is saying?

Let us open our hearts to The Spirit, open our ears and minds to what The Spirit is telling us. Let us have hope. Let us take action. Let us do what is right in God's

sight. Let us have hope. Hope does not disappoint us, because Gods love has been poured into our hearts by The Holy Spirit that has been given us. Light conquers darkness, love conquers hate, and the glory of love will see us through. Love will make our world a better place. All we need to do is give it a chance.