

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TRINITY SUNDAY**

**MEDITATION FOR JUNE 7, 2020**

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Dear Friends,

With all the distress this past week and for the weeks of the pandemic, you might not think that a sermon about The Trinity would be edifying. But God is full of surprises and so below I have given the Trinity a brief homiletic attempt.

Ultimately, it is the doctrine of the Trinity itself that reminds us never to take language about God to be literal. Is God a shepherd? Is God a literal rock? Is God a son? Is God a heavenly dove? Yes, God is all these things, but God is not all those things literally. For certain, God is a symphony of love. And, God is relevant always.

Simone Weil once said, “To be always relevant, you have to say things that are eternal,” and perhaps that is the best advice we could heed on this day. The idea of the Trinity is sacred in that it reveals the truth and holiness of relationship and love for which our world yearns in heartbreak and fear.

The idea of the Trinity reveals to us that essential and everlasting truth is in the sacrificial love of God in Christ; and in that relational act, we find our true humanity. In the Christ, it is revealed to us how in our darkness, truth works itself out in love.

To follow Christ is to face our current challenges with his attitude of generosity, care and benevolence, empathy and love of another. And we have the The Holy Spirit to guide and sustain us in our reality and relationships.

In Christ, Beverly

*Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP p.823).*

**TRINITY SUNDAY PATHWAYS**

**JUNE 7, 2020**

**The Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The Lessons of the Day** - Psalm 8; Genesis 1:1-2:4a; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; and Matthew 28:16-20.

### *God from All Angles*

On this Trinity Sunday, we are again invited into the life and transformative power of a God who is on the move in the here-and-now. I don't think outlining the doctrine of the Trinity will be helpful on a Sunday when some of us sit still in quarantine because of the pandemic and others pause in upset and fear about protests on nearby street corners and parks.

God from all angles, like our triune God, is not known to us through doctrine but through our human experiences of divine presence in both ordinary life as well as at extraordinary times, from lived encounters with a God who shows up in, among, and always for the sake of human bodies.

So, let's talk a moment about this God who is here and now and lives from all angles. Healthy Christianity is able to understand the truth of God from various angles. And that has especially been the truth of our own tradition, Anglican Christianity. At our best, we understand that divine truth can be understood and experienced from different angles.

Today we can tell the story about this God who enters our lives, individually and as a community, we have faced illness, disease and loss. Listen to the stories of the survivors of COVID 19 who had nurses hold up phones and tablets so in isolation they could see and hear their family's love and prayers. They called their hospital care teams *bedside angels*.

While the solutions to injustice are complicated and seemingly unattainable, Christ teaches a different story about transformation. In Christ, we are called to spiritual practices that will deepen our spiritual lives and relationships. In the ways of love, we can practice non-reactive listening in conflict, prayer for human family and intentional learning especially about the tragedy of discrimination. So that, we can

become people enabled to have a conversation about mercy, forgiveness, healing and peace.

Our God from all angles, here and now, through the Holy Spirit among us continues to make incarnate God's loving embrace of all people. And too, we know that means to love one another, to speak the love of God into places that have been deprived of love, to announce mercy to those who have been deprived of mercy, to strive for justice and peace for all people.

When we describe the Trinity, one principle stands out: God lives in relationship. Even God, who is above all and in all, even God lives in relationship. In fact, God is relationship. God does not fit inside just one person. God is three persons living in the ongoing event of relationship.

And those three persons, living in relationship, allow so many millions of us—living in relationship—to know God and seek a deeper relationship with God in the ways of love we are called to practice.

And don't miss the promise at the very end of this Gospel of Matthew after Jesus pronounces the great commission to go out in his name, both reward and challenge: *"I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20)

*Faithfully, Beverly*

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