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Ps 8; Gen 1:1-2:4a; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Mt 28:16-20

Trinity Sunday - Service of Holy Communion

Our God is unseen – yet God brought all that we can see into being – as the writer of Hebrews tells us: “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” (Heb 11:3)

Today, Trinity Sunday, we celebrate the mysterious quality of God’s Being – One God in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We say God is three persons or manifestations of one substance or essence – that God is Trinity. In these latter days we have called God Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. You are perfectly correct to refer to God as Father and/or Mother. Through all this, God is One. Mysterious.

God created us male and female (Gen 1:27) – in God’s own image. No sexual union produced the first humans. Rather, God fashioned Adam from the dust of the ground – then gave him life. From Adam, God extracted bone to create the woman, Eve. Genesis reveals that humanity was conceived by sovereign will in the divine being of the Creator. This is deeply meaningful. We do not resemble God in our gender, ethnicity or race – nor any material characteristic. All these are incidental. Every human being bears the image of the Creator. You are a soul. You are a spirit. You are a child of God when you believe in Him.

You can see God’s purpose reflected everywhere. Whether we explore – by electron microscope or by space probe – we see how wonderful the creation is. Listen, God is not the creation. God transcends every material form we experience in the universe. It is striking that we perceive God’s working in a tiny wildflower – and in the cosmic birth of a star. The psalmist says, “You made Your glory higher than heaven – and the praise of little children declares Your strength.” (cf Ps 8:1-2) Please do not soldier on as the sovereign of your own personal universe. God is infinite.

God, immense and powerful, deeply desires to welcome you into His presence and to enjoy you. His purpose is to fill you with joy unspeakable and full of glory. It is said, “a bird sings because it has a song.” The song is partly innate and partly learned by hearing and repeating it. We are not birds, by any means. Birds were here first – created on the fifth day. We were not created until the sixth day. But we are created to glorify and praise God. It is in our spiritual make-up – no matter how deeply buried in acculturation or papered over by higher education. We may think our way to many places distant from the saints and angels gathered around God’s throne. But our kinship with God – Father – Son and Holy Spirit is part of our substance and part of our spirit.

I know a young woman named Megan. She had been a church goer as a girl. But, by her junior year in high school, she decided she was an atheist. She says, “I just couldn’t believe that there was a good God – it seemed impossible.” She was happy about her “freedom” from what to her amounted to a list of rules – from people who preached them but didn’t keep them.

Megan’s freshman year at the University of NE included finding friends who were part of a Christian fellowship. She spent her first Christian meeting being uncomfortable in the presence of believers. But, for the sake of her friends, she kept attending. She would pepper the leaders and everyone with questions like, “If *your God is so good, why do bad things happen to people?*” and “Why do you guys want to follow a God who just wants to boss you around and just control you?” (www.cru.org) She was surprised to hear answers like, “rather than God being an oppressive ruler, He is a God of infinite love who is in control with a plan.” Over time, surrounded by growing and deepening friendships, Megan began to absorb the message about God’s love. One summer, Megan traveled with a student mission to Haines AK. She worked at an outdoor restaurant called Gold Creek Salmon Bake earning a wage and reaching out to the community along with new friends she met and got to know on the nine-hour drive from Sioux Falls SD.

Now she is passionate about telling people what God has done in her life. “[I want people to know] that God is loving
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and cares about His people. Without knowing God, that is a really hard concept to understand. People won't get that life unless it's shared with them."

Even before she was a Jesus-follower, Megan believed in helping others. In the kingdom fellowship – in the presence of the risen Christ – her worldview changed. Her fellow travelers welcomed her into the life of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of life. This is a big part of God's plan for each one of us.

Years ago, I attended a series of messages given by Eugene Peterson. He was a quiet, and unassuming speaker. He barely raised his voice. In one of those talks, Peterson described the fellowship of the Trinity as a square dance. It goes like this: the Son honors His partner – He honors His corner. Then all allemand back, to their original square. As the Holy Spirit is about to dos-a-dos with His partner, you see that there is nobody in that spot. He looks at you – and He gestures – come on – dance with us. Where the Father was, suddenly, there is Jesus. As the dancers make a full circle around, where the Spirit was, there is the Father. When you live and dance in God – you are in the midst of Father, Son and Holy Spirit – all moving in harmony. And you are dancing with them – and with all the saints and ministers of grace – in divine fellowship. It is a cosmic dance. You are invited into abundant life now and forever!

Jesus promised, "...I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age."

Preachers often say, along with the Apostle Paul, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you always." Amen.