

“Living into the Image of the Triune God”

Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 28:16-20

Trinity Sunday is my favorite Sunday of the church year!

I love Trinity Sunday because it is a chance to consider

Not how we create God in our image but how we

Really and truly are created in God’s triune image.

Sometimes when we think about the Trinity we imagine that

It was an idea the Founding Fathers at the Council of Nicea

Came up to describe God to a divided church-

Was Jesus fully God or fully human- how could he be both?

And what is this Holy Spirit deal???

Sometimes we think that it was an idea that the Apostle Paul

Came up with to make sense of God- afterall we know that Paul

Was borderline A.D.D and that he had a need to give logic

and order to that messy Body of Christ-

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Was his closing to the first letter to the Corinthians.

Sometimes we think that the Trinity was the chronological

Coming of God into this world- with God the creator in Genesis,

God the Son in the Gospels as the next glimpse of God,

And finally the Holy Spirit coming to us in Pentacost in Acts

Sometimes we speak of the Trinity as the various jobs of God:

Creator, redeemer and sustainer.

And yet the truth is that the Trinity is not what God does

or a chronological revealing of God's presence through out time

or a human invention to understand God's nature

but rather the Trinity is the essence of God's very being from

The beginning of time and beyond.

The Trinity is God with us in Creation as the one who creates out

Of love, by God's word through God's breath or spirit- Ruah.

God did not create us because God needed us to be

Community with God, but rather God created us

Out of the communion of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

SO the first part of being created in the image of God is to be

Created to be in communion with God and each other.

If God's own being is communion of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Then living in as a productive, affirming part of community

is living in the image of the Triune God.

“God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image according to our likeness...so God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.’”

We are created to be in communion with God and each other.

But there’s more to this Trinitarian understanding of who God is

And who God created us to be than community.

In Jesus’ life and ministry, we see again and again the Triune God.

When Jesus is baptized in Matthew 3 are aware of the presence

Of the Triune God as the Spirit descends like a dove upon Jesus

And the voice of God the Father:

“This is my Son the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

To live in the image of the Triune God is to walk with and

encourage each other in our baptism and faith.

It is not an accident when the resurrected Jesus tells his disciples

on the mountain of Galilee to be about “baptizing in the name

of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.”

And it’s not an accident that this post resurrection encounter

With the Resurrected Jesus happen on a mountaintop.

We remember the other mountaintop experiences with Christ:

The Teaching in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5

**And the Discipling of Peter, James and John
at the transfiguration in Matthew 17.**

**And like those other mountaintop times Jesus is all about
Going to make disciples and teaching.**

Both verbs are ongoing actions- going and teaching.

**They aren't acts of faith that one does once and rest
On their laurels.**

They are acts of faith that are ongoing, continuous actions

That are as necessary as breathing, eating and heart beating.

And that is part of being created in the image of the Triune God;

We are not static beings but dynamic being.

If we translate Genesis One correctly it is not

**"In the beginning God created" but rather "in the beginning
When God was creating". The creating activity of God
In active and ongoing.**

And the word of God, Jesus Christ is not a static word but dynamic.

When I was reading John 1 for a Pentecost service in French

I expected the text to say "Au commencement etait la mot"

But instead it read "Au commencement etait le Verbe"

The word of God, Jesus Christ is not a action word.

**The Triune God is not static, frozen, one dimensional
but multidimensional and active and dynamic and living.**

And so we are action people not frozen people.

**Some people call us Presbyterians the “Frozen chosen”
and I take exception with that.**

Those two words can never be together.

If we are indeed chosen, we are not chosen to do nothing

But rather we are chosen for service, we are chosen to be

People who are “Going to make disciples”,

“baptizing in the Triune name” and “Teaching”

To be created in the image of the triune God

Is to be an active, dynamic people.

We need only look to our founders in this church to see this lived out.

Check out the names of the people on our Founder List.

They may be retired from their businesses but

In the life of Christ they are carpenters, scout leaders,

Musicians, camp advocates, Sunday School

teachers and learners, office helpers,

hospital volunteers and visitors.

It’s a dynamic group created and living out the image of God.

So what does it mean to be living out the image of the triune God?

It means living in communion with God and each other.

It means walking with and encouraging each other

In our life and faith journeys from baptism on.

It means living lives that are dynamic reflections of

God's presence and call in our lives.

And it means being lifelong learners and disciples

who go to the mountain top over and over again

in our journeys of life and faith. Amen