

"The Holy Trinity and Our Lives Now"

June 7 is Trinity Sunday, the day we celebrate the foundational teaching that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Now we might think this is a dry doctrine, and we may wonder if it has anything to say to us in the current situation in our country. After all, we are dealing with a once-in-hundred-years pandemic, and, in these past two weeks, we have been dealing with the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the reality of racial injustice in our land. What can the doctrine of the Trinity say to all this? But I think our faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit does indeed speak to us in this moment.

For one thing, our Trinitarian faith informs us that God is much bigger than we might have imagined, and that God is actively involved in all aspects of our lives and the life of the world. We believe in the Living God, who created all life and created all human beings in God's image, with equal value and worth and dignity. That is why people of faith stand together with the family of George Floyd and with all people of color who are treated unjustly, undervalued, dishonored, and even killed because of the sin of racism. We repent of that sin and ask God to heal us, reconcile us, and unite us in our common God-given humanity.

Furthermore, we believe that the God who created the world, the God who enlivens us and all people, did not remain a distant Creator but came down to earth. God came down to save God's sinful and rebellious people. God chose to share our flesh-and blood life with us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus' life of love, in his caring for the poor and outsiders, in his healing of the sick, in his teaching us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be peacemakers, in his feeding the hungry---in all these ways Jesus shows us what God is like and that God is with us. In Jesus' suffering, God identifies with all who suffer---including the victims of racial injustice, and all who suffer and are dying from COVID-19. Jesus' risen presence is with us now.

Our Trinitarian faith also affirms our experience of the Holy Spirit, who pours God's love into hearts. The one Spirit unites people of every race and age and language and nation into one body, the body of Christ, the church. In the body of Christ we celebrate the great diversity God has blessed us with, and we are grateful that the Spirit gives us all different gifts, which we are called to use to serve others and to build up the unity of the body.

The Spirit gives comfort and strength to those who mourn the deaths of their loved ones. We remember and collectively mourn the horrible death of George Floyd and the more than 108,000 Americans, precious souls taken by the coronavirus in the past three months. The Spirit makes true the reality that when we see our black sister and brothers suffering from racial injustice, we also suffer. We are all in this together, and the Spirit makes this something we experience, not just words. **And the Spirit gives us hope, because God's love has the power to transform us and makes us into positive agents of change.**

So the Trinity is not dull or remote at all. Quite the opposite. The fullness of the cosmic Creator and Redeemer of all is with us, around us, and above us, connecting us, reconciling us, guiding us into the future. God is on the side of all who suffer. God is with us, on our side, on the side of justice and non-violence, on the side of racial unity. God continues to call us to love our neighbors in mature, though difficult, ways, and to care for the most vulnerable--those vulnerable to both the virus of COVID-19 and the virus of racism. **We are not alone. God is present and active, creating and re-creating, redeeming and sustaining the whole creation. God the Creator of all is with us in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve