

Sermon for May 30 Trinity Sunday C

I am convinced that you know everything about the doctrine of the Trinity that you need to know.

I do not need to explain it; you have lived it; we have lived it.

Trinity is simply how we have known God, how God has shown himself to us.

I say we/us in the long sense; the people who have known the Triune God for 2000 years.

See how Paul lays it out in the lesson from Romans.

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

We live in that peace, with access to his grace, sharing in the glory of God.

And even as we suffer, God's love is continually poured into our hearts through his Spirit.

That is the story of God as the Bible reveals it: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And that is the story of God as your life reveals it as well.

There was a time in your life when someone told you about God.

Your little mind pictured someone like a person.

A bigger version of one of your parents, perhaps.

A little later, they added Jesus to the mix.

And you got a little older and pondered how Jesus related to the Father God.

And then much later, I hope someone spoke about the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps as a teenager, you wrestled with the threeness and oneness of God.

As in the Scriptures, probably in your life, God has been gradually revealed as Trinity, as a blessed community, three persons of one substance.

So there is good news for us in the Triune life of God.

Trinity is about this; the wholeness and love of the life of God.

Perfect unity, perfect differentiation.

They are equals but so much more than equals.

Three persons who share themselves fully

A relationship of complete and free interdependence.

They share a single being; yet they have been revealed to us as three persons across salvation history.

We number them, first, second, and third.

St. Augustine of Hippo famously explains the Holy Spirit as the love who binds the Father and Son to one another.

So it is the third who makes possible the perfect love of the first and second.

It is the three-ness that makes the whole game new.

Think about two children and a see-saw, up and down, this then that.

No room for a third in that game.

But a third calls for a whole new game.

The threeness of God means that God's love is continually spilling over, as the Holy Spirit seeks us and draws us back to the Father and the Son.

But God's oneness is great good news as well; it is unity and reconciliation that we much desire.

God's relationship is how we are meant to relate to one another and indeed can relate to one another.

You have experienced the Trinity in that sense as well.

Think of one of your best relationships.

A coach, a teacher, a boss.

Someone who loved and respected you.

Someone who nurtured you and trusted you.

Who loved without control or manipulation.

Someone who depended on you and you on them; faithfulness was the rule.

Our best relationships are characterized by mutual interdependence.

No independence; not individuality.

Not dependence and domination.

Loving interdependence, without fear, coercion, and anger.

So it is that God relates in the blessed community of the Trinity.

And it is God's will that we relate that way as well, right now.

If we follow the teachings of Jesus, our lives will show forth the Triune love of God.

Think of his commands:

Love one another. Serve one another.

Forgive relentlessly. Be reconciled to one another.

Seek not vengeance. Let your yes be yes and your no be no.

Do not worry; do not judge.

Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

What an awesome hope God has for us; that we will be like God.

That our lives will reflect the perfect unity, love, and diversity of God's life.

I hope you believe me that you know everything you need to know about the Trinity.

The Scriptures tell the story; your life does as well.

There remain great mysteries; we do not understand the inner life of God.

Come to think of it; our relationships are like that as well.

Many mysteries in how we relate to one another.

About the Triune God and our life with one another, let us confess with blessed John:

“What we will be has not been revealed. What we do know is this; when the Triune God is revealed, finally and fully in the Kingdom, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is and his image will be fully restored in us.”