

Ps 8; Gen 1:1-2:4a; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Mt 28:16-20
Grace, Love & Fellowship – 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 triune (three in one) – that God is Trinity. In these latter days we have called God Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Thoughtful teachers and preachers choose to appeal to those who have gender issues. We need to put the gender of God aside. God has no gender as we humans understand sexuality. It is perfectly acceptable to refer to God as Father and/or Mother. God created us with a designated sex – 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 – and from him, God

extracted bone to make the woman, Eve.

Genesis teaches that humanity was conceived by sovereign will in the divine image of the Creator.

You can see the purpose of our Creator God reflected everywhere you look. Everywhere we explore – by electron microscope and by space probe – we see how wonderful the creation is. Yet, God is not the creation. God transcends every 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)

God, so immense and powerful, deeply desires to draw you into His presence and to enjoy you, His people. And in so doing – to fill you with a 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 the hearing and repeating of 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 our acculturation and papered over by our liberal arts 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 heard about a young woman named Megan this past week. She had been a church-goer in her family. 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 – among 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 the friendships, 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 be a controller over you?” (www.cru.org) She was a bit 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. Last 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.

Megan is now passionate about telling people what God has done in her life. “[I want people to know] that God is loving and does care about His people, because without knowing God, that is a really hard concept to understand. People won’t get that concept unless it’s shared with them.”

Here’s the thing. Even before she was a Jesus-follower, Megan believed in helping others. What happened in the kingdom fellowship – in

the presence of the risen Christ – she put it all together. Her fellow travelers welcomed her into the midst of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of life. This is a big part of God’s plan for each one of us.

In 1999, I attended a series of messages given by Eugene Peterson back east. By the way, he is a quiet, and unassuming speaker. He barely raises his voice even when standing in an ancient, high pulpit amidst strict, straight-backed pews – such as you find in Estes Chapel, where I went to school. In one of those talks, Peterson described the fellowship of the Trinity – our triune God – as a square dance. I often think of our God in such a scene – the Son honors His partner – He honors His corner. Then all allamand right back, to their original square. As the Holy Spirit is about to dos-a-dos with His partner, we see that there is nobody in that spot. He looks at you – and He beckons – come on – join in our dance. Where the Father was, suddenly, there is the Holy Spirit. As the squares make a full circle around, where the Spirit was, there is the Son. When you and I are in the presence of God – we get it all. Father, Son and Holy Spirit – all moving in harmony. And

there you are, dancing with them – and with all the saints and ministers of grace – in divine fellowship. It's a cosmic dance. And you are invited. Abundant life now and forever.

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

Your preacher often says, 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 all." Amen.