

Blessed Community
Genesis 1; Matthew 28:16-20

Tertullian, church leader and apologist of the First Century, said that the church is like the Trinity. It is a plant, with the Father as a deep root, the Son as the shoot that breaks forth into the world, and the Spirit as that which spreads beauty and fragrance.

Today, as we observe Trinity Sunday, we will explore the many views of the Holy Trinity and how the church may be affected by these views.

"In the beginning..." as we read in Genesis, God has been fully present to everyone and everything in this world. And God is still with us because the Spirit of God still "hovers" and "resonates" over and around and in us all. In the Creation Story, the Spirit hovers over the deep. The plural language of who is present at Creation informs us that God-in-more-than-one is present.

God, the three-in-one, lives from the beginning of Creation. God, in community; God the Creator, the Redeemer, the Sustainer, live together in one abiding with us in all times and in all places, guiding us through all of life's incidences.

For six months I had the privilege of serving as Interim on the faculty of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. One of the perks was sharing lunch conversation with other faculty on days when students were not on campus. Dean Tom Curry, author and theology professor, was a wealth of information and knowledge. One day as we debated the use of Trinitarian language, I urged the use of the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer language as an alternative to the more traditional Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Dr. Curry's response will forever remain in my mind. "Those words are job descriptions and take away the relationships. God always is about relationship."

God is always in relationship within the Trinity. God is always in relationship with God's children. God remains in relationship with God's children by providing for us Jesus, the Redeemer, and the Spirit that Sustains us in every moment of every day.

In Matthew God tells us "I am with you always," I might add, "and in every way" God, the three-in-one is always with us in every way we can ever think of, in every way we can ever need, God is near. The God of Israel, the Savior, the Spirit, is sometimes a God that hides himself, but never a God at a distance. God is a God in relationship, living in community and calling us to do the same.

Many people have this notion that this world belongs to them. That this life is about – is, about ME. This is just not true! It is time for us to end this foolish and incorrect notion that it is our world. It is, and always has been, God's world. It is, and always has been about God. What is the Chief end of man? Why were we created? To honor and glorify God! Contrary to the words of the song my friends, this land is not your land, this land is not my land, this land belongs to God, the Creator of all that is. This belongs to God, I belong to

God. You belong to God. We are God's. And God has called us to live in community with each other. God has called us live in relationship with one another and with the three-in-one that are God. We are to live together, building relationships, creating, teaching, preaching, baptizing, making disciples.

"And as we go forth into the World, we're not alone. God is present. God is active. God is creating and recreating. God is redeeming. God is sustaining the creation. Yes, God is with us – in Jesus through the Holy Spirit – to the end of the age."