

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, May 26th, 2024, Trinity Sunday
Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

I heard a long time ago a way of understanding God as three in one. It is like a cherry pie. When you cut it into pieces, you can definitely see the cut in the crust which separates the pieces, but when you look inside you see the cherries and the juices all flowing together. Both separate and one.

It is also interesting that other than last Sunday, for Pentecost and this Sunday there is no focus on the Holy Spirit. We pray to God the Father and Jesus in our prayers or pray in the name of Jesus, but anyone pray to the Holy Spirit?

Maybe this is about recognizing our own value and the Spirit within. Both our strengths and weaknesses. And where do our strengths come from? Both created by God and nurtured with the help of the Holy Spirit.

There is a Russian Icon by Rublev called both the Trinity Icon and the Hospitality of Abraham. Three figures sitting around a table. Hospitality Icon because it is the three strangers Abraham welcomes not knowing they are angels, the three figures representing the Trinity together.

This sense of God not being alone and teaching us about the value of relationships. That in a very real way the Trinity is a mystery and cannot be truly understood. All relationships as well. *The spirit like the wind, where it comes from and where it goes no one knows.*

The sense that we need others and God in Christ to learn from them. We don't know everything. The point was not to condemn the world, and we don't know what we can learn from the world.

Is the problem with the world itself, or the ways of the world? Both Paul and Jesus talk about flesh and spirit. Paul talks about the ways of the flesh for his death. But is he using the word flesh differently from the word body?

There is the body and the temptations of the flesh. The body perhaps is a moral. So, it's how we act in reference to the body we can be selfish and demeaning of others and ourselves in how we use the body. Perhaps it is the spirit infused in the body in and around and through us that moves us away from the temptations and condemnations of the flesh.

That born again sense for me is the metaphor of us being a room. The born-again experience is light coming into the room. The light of Christ or the Holy Spirit. Before that light the room is in darkness, shades of grey and blackness. When the light comes into the room, we see both the colours of the furniture and the paintings on the walls. So, we see the good news, but we also see that parts of it may be frayed I need work. That is why we need this spirit and each other to help us through the journey of life.

And that is where the passage from Isaiah comes in. When I say it says I am a man of unclean lips living among the people of unclean lips.

What's the last line? Here am I send me.

Amen

May God our Creator renew in us the creative Spirit
that brings healing and life to our world.
May Jesus the Christ, uphold us in grace and love.
May the Holy Spirit fill us with courage
to be bearers of God's song of hope in the world. Amen.