

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, June 12th, 2022, Trinity Sunday
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15

I know I'm repeating myself in this sermon is not the one preached on Sunday morning as the reverend Steve Smith his preaching and doesn't preach from full text.

Joseph G. Donders tells a story like this; some days ago I read a story about a man who was so alone and lonely that nobody ever shook his hands, patted his shoulders, gave him a friendly push in the ribs, hugged, or even touched him. He felt so lonely daddy spent the last of his money, but not on food. Food would not help; it does not make contact. He did not spend it on a bed; a bed does not help, either. He did not spend it on a drink. A drink alone is poison. He spent his last money on a hairdresser, so we would be touched and taken care of by someone for a few minutes.

Loneliness is one of the most frightening experiences in life. Did you ever lose Your way in a forest? Have you ever been so lost you couldn't hear any human voices? No dog barked, no truck passed, and you were totally alone.

We can relate to this story even those of us who are introverted because it feels like a story about someone going through the COVID isolation.

The Trinity Sunday icon is also called the hospitality icon because it tells the story of Abraham showing hospitality to the three angels. God is not alone, and we celebrate that today for Trinity Sunday.

Last week for Pentecost we recognize the coming of the Holy Spirit. It has been said and I've said it before myself, the Holy Spirit follows wisdom in the Hebrew Bible. Wisdom, Sofia. Perhaps the feminine part of the Trinity.

Or, it may have something to do with left or right brain parts of the brain. It's common to believe that the left brain is for logical thinking and the right brain is for creativity. This has been proven not be completely true, but it does give us pause. We made tend to look at God the father and God the son as emphasizing more left brain or logical thinking, and the Holy Spirit right brain and creativity. Or to put it another way problem solving on one side, and compassion and understanding on the other.

And just maybe the three parts of the Trinity fit together. God the father as creator the beginning and the end, the alpha and Omega. God the son as a forerunner for us of

what it means to follow God the father, and a model for us as well. To learn from him. And the Holy Spirit, God in and around each of us. The hope and energy from within to worship God the father and have the energy and wisdom to follow the example of God the son.

This may be heretical, but in a way it's easier to think of God in two ways rather than three. But that may be just me. The two terms that come to mind are transcendence and imminence.

Transcendence, God is beyond us, outside of us, an authority beyond. Imminence, God in and around and through each of us. So, both at a distance and close by within.

This calls us all into a relationship that I also call Trinity. The summary of the law to love God with all your heart and soul mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. The threefold, God neighbor and self.

Amen