

Trinity Sunday 2010  
The Rec. Dr. Kevin J. Moroney

Today is Trinity Sunday, and I have to begin by saying that this is one of my favorite Sunday's of the year.

I love the music for Trinity Sunday; I love the way it brings to a climax the 6 months of the Church's festival seasons. I love the fact that we have a Trinity window here at Christ Church, and most importantly, I love the theology of this day, when we end the festival seasons by declaring that what we as Christians ultimately have to say about God is that God is Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

With that said, I also feel the need to admit that this climactic Sunday will include some of the most deadly boring sermons of the year, with clergy all over the world drawing on scientific and mathematical analogies in an attempt to try to prove the rational plausibility of the Trinity, all while the eyes of the faithful glaze over, and dribble starts to work it's way down the chins of the faithful.

You can probably tell that I am right with you on that point. I am neither moved nor impressed with that approach to the Trinity, but I am moved and awe-struck by the Trinity when approached from another angle, and that is what I want to share with you today. The angle of relationship.

But first I need to begin by talking about our own identities. We have all been culturally conditioned to think of ourselves as individuals. I am Kevin and you are you. I have rights, I have needs, and I have responsibilities, and so do you. So there is something to this notion of the individual. But there is a lot more to us than that, and the deeper we go into ourselves, the more our sense of individuality falls apart.

Let me give you a very personal and difficult example. Some of you may not know yet that my father died a week ago Thursday. As an individual, my dad has peacefully gone to join the communion of saints.

But I assure you that I can feel the force of him inside me every minute. My sharp tongue, my sense of humor, my love of music and sports, my Irishness. Each of which came to me through him through some combination of nature and nurture.

I can say the same for my 85-year-old mother, from whom I get my work ethic, my inner drive, and my commitment to positive thinking and action, not to mention much of my physical appearance.

I can then talk about how I came to understand myself in contrast to my siblings. How my life in the church, in relationship to all the people I have served, has shaped, wounded and healed me.

In other words I am an individual who is really a composite. And so are you. I am constantly in relationship with all the forces, which have made and shaped me, and so are you.

The math and science which makes up my total identity is way too complex for me to grasp, but one thing I know: I am Kevin, and being Kevin includes all the people who shaped me. Life is essentially relational, not individual.

Scripture tells us that we are created in the likeness and image of God, and I believe that this is one of the ways in which we reflect God's image.

We believe in one God, an individualistic idea. But have you experienced the wonder of staring up at a star filled sky, or sitting on the beach before the vastness of the sea? And in doing so have you been awestruck by God's transcendence?

Or have you ever sat in Church, or in a group of friends, or received communion and felt very strongly that Christ was present among us? Have you ever heard Jesus teach in the gospels and imagine him right there with you? God is among us.

Or have you ever sat by yourself quietly and felt your inner turmoil settle into peaceful calm. Remember that the biblical word for Spirit also means breath. God is within us; like breath.

God transcendent above us. God present among us. God the breath, the life force, within us.

Is this not the God we know? Not by means of math or science, but through living in relationship with God and his creation. This is the Trinity we know, love, and cannot live without. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

With that said, it must also be acknowledged that we cannot box God into any definition, and any reflection upon God is no more than a pebble at the base of a vast mountain.

Which doesn't mean it isn't true. It only means that no reflective description can exhaust the meaning and mystery of God, any more than one word can exhaust the meaning and mystery of our own identities.

My prayer for you this day is that you can see in the Trinity the God you know and love. God beyond us. God among us. God within us. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen