

Sermon

All Saints' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Kimberly Jackson
Trinity Sunday
11 June, 2017



May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all of our hearts be pleasing to you, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

Today is called "Trinity Sunday." The Sunday set aside every year to celebrate one of the great mysteries and complexities of Christian theology – The Trinity. Now, if this were a seminary, I would walk you through the great theorists of our tradition who've written tomes on the subject. And if this were EfM class, we'd likely break into small groups to discuss each aspect of this Three-in-One, Triune, God that we love.

But, since I only have about twelve minutes, allow me to skip all of those things; and I'll simply offer one view, one understanding of why the Trinity is important and instructive to our twenty-first century lives.

I believe that the Trinity – this whole, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – is all about modeling for us the importance, indeed, how essential it is for us to live and work in community. You all just heard the reading from Genesis. In our creation stories, God the Creator makes all of these incredible things, ostensibly just by speaking them into being. Land, sea, day, night; there's an incredible playground created from the imagination of God. And then, we get to the part where humans are made. And it's different this time. Many scholars ground their entire apologetic for the triune God based on this Hebrew text. God says to the others in the council of God, "Let us make humankind in our image."

In other words, together, with mutual co-operation and effort, as a community in relationship each other. Let's do this new thing. In what Walter Bruggemann calls a Divine Dance, let's make humans.

My friends, this is the model for how we create new and holy things. This is the model of how we must live with each other: in mutual cooperation; each one helping another.

Let me tell you a story.

When I was in seminary I was babysat a little boy – let's just call him Charles. Charles was three years old at the time. Smart, so smart, sweet, and highly independent. I picked him up from pre-school every day and my job was to give him a snack when we got home. So, as I would prepare the snack, little Charles would go into the bathroom to wash his hands. But he was three. And therefore, height challenged. But being the independent little guy that he was, Charles insisted on washing his hands by himself. So every day, Charles would step up on a little step stool, and then use that to climb onto the toilet. And then, he would stand on the toilet, *leeeeeaaaann* over onto the sink, turn on the cold water, and he washed his hands. Every day, little Charles would say to me, "I don't need help. I don't need help. I can do this by myself."

And well, he could. He just made a huge mess while he was doing it.

My friends, the model given to us by the Holy Trinity is clear: we need help. We need each other. Yes, we can do things by ourselves. In fact, we as humans are really great at creating all kinds ways of handling our problems alone. I know that certainly I'm guilty of saying, I don't need help. We do this all the time, we say, I don't need help with my feelings of grief. Or I don't need help with my marriage, or with my finances. I don't need help raising my children, or fighting my way through addiction, depression or joblessness.

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And over time, because we get so *used* to climbing up on the toilet in order to turn on the water just to wash our hands, because we get so used to our dysfunction, we start to believe that we don't need help.

But, my friends, it took God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to make us! If *they* needed help, then clearly, we need help.

I did eventually, after getting tired of having to get him a dry shirt after every handwashing, tell Charles, "No, you need help."

My friends, when our new rector comes, he's gonna to need help. We're all going to need help making the transition - figuring out how to be community with someone new.

The honest truth is that we all need help. We all need help navigating this world - adjusting to hurts and disappointments. We need help celebrating our joys and victories. We all need help.

And the good news in all of this is that there is help for us. We can all do this. Together. With God's help. With our Triune God's help.

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