

June 6, 2004

TRINITY C

This Sunday after Pentecost is each year devoted to celebrating the TRINITY...

The 3 persons of God...

Father, Son and H.S.

The church obviously thinks this concept of the Trinity is quite important...

since it is to be celebrated every

year..

Still many of us might say,

“Who cares?”

“Why should I care about the fact
that God has 3 persons?”

“What difference does it
make?”

We hear it all the time, don't we?

- We start our service with it...

*Blessed be God, Father, Son
and H.S.*

- We end the service with the
blessing...

in the name of the FATHER,
SON AND H.S.

We start our life with baptism in the name of the FATHER, SON AND H.S.

We end our life with a blessing as the dead body is lowered into the grave...

In the name of the FATHER, SON
AND H.S.

The Father represents GOD BEYOND....

The part of God that is out there...

Beyond our understanding...

Beyond our comprehension.

This the creator God.

The God who breathed all things
into existence.

Who created Adam and Eve.

And as the prayerbooks says...

The God who set the planets in
their courses..

and created this fragile
Earth...our island home.

This is the God who was the star of the Old Testament.

We read again and again about his
sovereign work of creation and calling
a people to himself...

And through it all...we hear over and over again of a messiah who will come...

God himself who will come in a way
very different from the way his people
had seen him before.

And so this creator God...sent his only Son to come among us in the form of a person...

A human being like you and me.

If the Father is GOD—BEYOND...

Then Jesus----is God AMONG US.

God who we can see and hear speak...

God who could be touched...

Who ate and drank with his
friends.

A God who laughed and
cried.

We are told that the Church is the Body of Christ,

The second person of the Trinity is
present right here with us when we are
gathered as the church.

And through his ministry...he also promised that his Father would send another gift.

That gift is the Holy Spirit.

If the Father is GOD BEYOND....

And JESUS is GOD AMONG US.

Then the Holy Spirit is
GOD WITHIN US.

The Holy Spirit is the very personal presence of God in each believer...

And in the church.

The H.S. speaks to us and FOR us.

When we cannot even find the words
to pray...the H.S. prays to God for us.

He intercedes with the Father...

pleads our case...
goes to the throne of the Father with
our needs.

He testifies to the truth...

Speaking to our hearts what is true and

right.

He guides us...

Shows each of us the way God would
have us go.

He commands us to follow God's laws

He leads...sets out a course for us that we can follow.

He reproves and convicts us of sin...

Shows us where we are wrong and calls
us to repent.

He seals God's promise in our hearts...

That we might trust God and count on
him for our very breath.

He shapes ours and community's life to
Christ's....

continually working to form the clay
of our lives more and more into the
likeness of Christ.

Jesus spoke again and again about the POWER of the Holy Spirit.

Do you feel the POWER of the Holy Spirit at work in your life?

When the power of the Holy Spirit is released in our life...
our life will necessarily change.

I have said it many times from this pulpit and will continue to...
GOD IS IN THE LIFE CHANGING
BUSINESS!

If the H.S. has not changed your life...or if you do not feel the power of the H.S. at work in your life...
Then it is because we create barriers
to the H.S....keeping his power in
check.

“You mean I can stop the power of the Holy Spirit from doing whatever it wants to do with me?”

Absolutely!

God will never force his will on you or me.

It is ALWAYS something we ALLOW to happen....it is OUR CHOICE.

Often we would rather work out of OUR OWN ‘human’ power and strength than through the Holy Spirit’s
power!

If I were wanting to cut down a huge tree, would I prefer to use a small hand saw or a 36” chain saw?

The answer is obvious.

But I'm telling you, that we often cut our way through life with that hand saw rather than using the power of a chain saw.

We try to make it through on our own human effort rather than submit to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ahh...because the power of the Holy Spirit, if released in our life...will change us.

We will more and more be molded into the image of Christ...

And frankly...we're not always sure
that that's what we want.

I kind of like being my own boss....shaping my life MY way...rather than HIS way.

Often it takes a crisis...sometimes more than one...before we submit to God...

and admit that OUR way isn't working
very well.

And finally come to our knees and ask God to shape my life HIS way.

So we must consciously choose to allow the H.S.... who is alive in us through our baptism and our confirmation...

To be released and his power allowed
to have his way with us....
to change us...more and more into
the image of Christ.

A good analogy is that of a seed....the seed of an oak tree...an acorn.

That acorn can remain an acorn forever.

But, unless it is planted and watered...it will never grow into the mighty oak it has the potential to be.

Ahhh...but to become an oak tree....that acorn has to change dramatically doesn't it.

Imagine the H.S. is placed in us as a seed at baptism.

Then it is our choice later as we grow older...to decide whether or not to plant and water that seed in our life...

Or to let it remain just that...a seed...
never reaching its potential.

Some are baptized...and never throughout their whole life plant that seed....

never allowing the Holy Spirit's power
to be released in their lives and
have his way with them.

It is sad...and indeed it is their loss.

The power is there within us.

All we have to do is ask God to release

the Spirit in us.

It is a request he will never deny.

So the very same God who resides out there...beyond our human understanding...

Also resides here among us as the
Church....

And even within our very hearts
in the form of the Holy Spirit.

And what is most important to us, is that those three persons of God that I just described are in fact the SAME
GOD.

The powerful God of the universe and of creation who resides out there....

also resides in our hearts....

the SAME GOD.

Heard to understand? Sure. But nevertheless true!

Amen.