**St. Andrew’s, Sidney**

**Bible Study**

**March 26, 2020**

**Images of God**

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| **Psalm 46: 1-3**  **1 Corinthians 10:13**  **2 Peter 3:9** | **Genesis 1:1**  **Hebrews 4:12**  **James 1: 17** | **Numbers 23: 19**  **Micah 7: 18-19**  **1 John 4: 7-9** |

We sometimes say that God is “Ineffable”. In saying that, we are acknowledging that there is no way of adequately describing all of what and who God is. Our Lord is beyond human imagination. But in trying to understand even a small portion of what the Eternal is and means, humans have suggested a number of images and metaphors. The following are five of these images. Each has some truth in it, and each has some short-comings in describing God.

**God the Puppetmaster**: God is a being, and is active in the world. God “pulls the strings” of the world and makes things happen. Nothing happens that God doesn’t make happen.

**God as watchmaker**: God is a being who set up the universe in its amazing diversity and complexity, and then sits back and lets the universe unfold within that system. (also called Intelligent Design)

**God as Love**: God is not a being, but rather a concept of love and compassion. God does not interfere with the world, but is the best of all that might happen.

**God as the uncreated Creator**: God is a being who created the universe, and who is active in its operation, always creating and recreating.

**God as Father**- benevolent or authoritarian, caring or disciplining, teaching or aloof.

For each image of God::

1. what does praying mean for that image of God?
2. how does that image of God impact our daily lives?
3. what is the impact of that image of God on Free Will?
4. what challenges might a person have with that image of God?

Some events in the world: how is God involved, present, active or not?

1. A football team wins the game in the last seconds.
2. A car hits ice and slides off the road over a small cliff, but the people in the car are not injured badly.
3. The same car crash happens, but the child in the back seat is badly injured.
4. You meet and marry the true love of your life.
5. A child is born.
6. A tsunami hits a small fishing village, causing a great deal of damage.
7. Two countries declare war on each other and many soldiers and civilians are killed.

And, finally, as we think of God, we often just think of God the Father. As Trinitarian Christians, God is a Triune God- God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. **How does adding the Trinity into your thinking change what you have been imaging God is?**