

Reflection Sunday May 30th, 2021

It would be a lot less complicated for many of us if we could just think of God as one thing...a distant, omnipotent, unfathomable director of the universe. A simple, abstract, vague God can be kept at arm's length, and there are far fewer untidy thoughts to contend with. Following the departure of Jesus on Ascension and the arrival of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, today we celebrate the three-part nature of God, a concept with which generations of believers have wrestled.

Coming to understand a God with three ways of being can be challenging. Before Jesus came along, no doubt people figured they had a handle on the nature of their God. Following hundreds of years of prophecies, Jesus comes along in human form to fulfill those prophecies with his teachings, miracles, death and resurrection. God in human form makes understanding much more complex, especially a God that is not distant, but is personal...actually present and perhaps too close for comfort. Suddenly, God is available and challenging, and defies a simple explanation. Layer on to that the arrival of the one Jesus promises who will be with them always, when he is no longer there. The Spirit empowers us to do things we aren't able to on our own, and reveals God to us. We profess to believe those three distinct natures are wrapped up in a unified, interactive, relational God.

The example of unity in diversity found in the relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit shows what strength might look like in our lives and world today. In our diverse communities, we come together as the church, the body of Christ. We have the potential to complement one another as we share our gifts, and have the potential to make one another stronger because of the loving way we interact with and support one another.

Perhaps one way of understanding the Trinity is to think of it as being a way of God being alive and working in the expanse of creation...past, present and future. The Trinity is about a God who is living and acting in our lives: creating and recreating, redeeming and sending, guiding and empowering. Ours is a God who is present in the world and available to us...a God who is working around us and in each of us.

Our lives and our world are saturated with a God who has claimed us and in whom we live, and move and have our being. AMEN