

#30 10-11

Being Wholly God's

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' 7So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. 10God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. 12The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. 16God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars.

17God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' 21So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 22God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' 23And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. 25God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

27 So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' 29God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. 31God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 2And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Trinity Sunday will forever be, for me, the very first Sunday I preached at Hyattstown Christian Church. That is always the first thing that comes to my mind when I think of Trinity Sunday. So many things in this world I do forget – but thank God, I did not forget this!

Just a quick walk down memory lane . . . the sermon was called "Holy Unions" and focused not only on the union of this church and our family, but also on the aspect of the trinity found in the book, "The Shack" that we had begun reading and the meaning of the Trinity - 3 in 1. The scripture text was Romans 8:12-17, which I will not repeat because we have already been fed enough scripture for one service, no?

Besides, I wanted to focus on the Genesis reading for my sermon. It seems like a bit of an odd choice when you think of focusing on the trinity and at the time of the conception of this text 2 of the 3 of the Trinity had not been fully realized yet. But the creation story, for me, holds all the elements of the Trinity. There is the wind of the creator God – and a creation made in God’s image – and the spirit of Holiness, which is to be held sacred on the Sabbath; Father – Son – and Holy Spirit. It has all been there from the very beginning, but Jesus came and opened our eyes to realize the completeness of the Triune God.

With Trinity Sunday – we have, in some fashion, completed the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. 30 Sundays into the new church year and we are finished. We’ve been through the pregnancy, his birth, his ministry, his persecution, his death, his resurrection, his ascension, Pentecost – the gift of the Holy Spirit – and so today we sum it all up! It is sort of the dénouement of Jesus life. The end of the book, after the plot has been completed and where all the loose ends are clarified. The rest of the year is ordinary time, and it is what we make of it – it is how Christ’s life lives on in us today. We are still writing his story.

So we have in Genesis God creating; and we have Paul requesting the Corinthians to “put things in order.” And we have the Gospel where the Disciples have been given the authority and the missionary calling with the reminder that the multi-dimensional God keeping all those who follow Christ bound to the power and the love of God, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

These quintessential qualities of the Holy, when we fully embrace them, when we make Christ’s teachings our source of life, and trust that the Holy Spirit will keep us connected to the source of our creation – that is what helps us to become more than just creatures – but reflections of God.

Theologian Carl Gregg wrote, “First, early Christians experienced God was beyond them, ‘as utterly transcendent.’ They recognized that the fullness of God is beyond our language, beyond our knowledge, and beyond our experience. At the same time that early Christians experience God as beyond them, they also experienced God as with them, ‘as present historically in the person of Jesus.’ This became known as the Incarnation: that Jesus embodied the ways of God in his life. Overtime, because his followers saw the ways of God so clearly in his life, this itinerant Jewish rabbi known as Jesus of Nazareth, became known by some as Jesus the Christ. And, at the same time that early Christians experienced God as beyond them and with them, they also experienced God as within them, ‘as present in the Spirit within their community.’ So, although there was a transcendent aspect of God that would always be beyond their experience and even after Jesus was no longer physically with them, early Christians still experienced the immanence – the closeness – of God that is, as Wren writes, ‘closer yet than breathing.’ They called this aspect of God ‘Spirit.’”

It can be so easy (especially when our quality of life is insecure) to lose the focus of the Holy, and focus only on getting more out of life. But when anything other than relating in love with this gift of life that we have – being a part of God’s creation – when anything other than that becomes our focus on life, we are in danger of merely being another animal on this planet and not becoming wholly divine as God designed for us and Christ showed us.

Trinity Sunday is the day that we proclaim to the world that God created us, Jesus showed us how to live as God’s Children, and the Holy Spirit gave us the tool we can trust to become wholly God’s; that is if we spend our lives searching for that mysterious, divine connection, and believing that humanity is more than what we consume, but it is the way we become more divine through loving and caring for the rest of God’s creation.

Rev. Barbara Brown Zikmund wrote, “As children of God we experience God’s love in many ways, and we believe that we are created in God’s image. Therefore, we need both ‘economic’ and ‘immanent’ understandings of the triune God. We are called to respond to God’s various ways in the world. And we are *invited to discover who we are* by recognizing the relational nature of God.”

May we find our greatest divine selves through the perfect union of the Holy Trinity. “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be will all of you.” AMEN