

A REFLECTION BY JOHN REID FOR TRINITY SATURDAY JUNE 6, 2020
EX 34:4B-6, 8-9; 2 COR 13:11-13; JOHN 3:16-18

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME & ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD!

Welcome one and all to Trinity Sunday! Last week we gathered together in our virtual community to celebrate Pentecost – we pray, sang and broke bread together, while also listening to Tricia’s powerful preaching on the movement of God’s Spirit in our lives. This week we gather to reflect on the meaning of the Holy Trinity. We also gather in the midst of a pandemic and of yet another racial crisis in our country – sparked this time by the murder in plain sight of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Today’s key questions are: Who is the God each of us seek? and What can we learn and apply to our own lives from these three realities – Trinity, Pandemic, Racial Crisis? I believe there are many lessons for each of us to consider. I will offer three resources for our reflection and, ultimately, for our individual and collective action. I invite us to focus on an **image**, some **thoughts** on the readings, and a **gesture**.

First, the image. My favorite image of the Holy Trinity is one we see only sometimes in Seattle -- **it is the sun.**

- The sun itself in this image represents God the creator. The sun is the source of light and life on our planet and without it, we would be in darkness. Remember, in our St. Mary Family Prayer, we say: **We believe in God who creates the universe and gives us life. We believe in a God of love and, therefore, we believe in the power of love.**
- The light that emerges from the sun, the rays of light, represents Jesus. Jesus truly is for us as Christians the light of the world. Again, from the St. Mary Family Prayer, we say: **We believe in Jesus Christ, who showed by His life, death and resurrection, God’s love for us and each individual person.**

- The warmth we feel in our bodies from the sun’s rays represents the Spirit. Once again, from the St. Mary Family Prayer, we pray: **We believe in the Spirit, the Spirit who recreates us every day. . . We believe in the Spirit who frees us from racism, from sexism, from the powerful whose actions speak against the kingdom.**

I invite us from this day forward when we see the sun, or even when we can’t see it but remember it is there, to think of the Holy Trinity. God is with us, like the sun, always on sunny and rainy days, in good times and in bad. Now, a few thoughts.

1. In the 1st reading from Exodus, we are told,” Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.” This message is especially important during this pandemic and while we are in the midst of this racial crisis. I am reminded of something our beloved Dolores Bradley told me some years before her death. Dolores said: “John, there is only one race in the end, the human race.” I like that wisdom from Dolores. We are all part of the human race and we are called to encourage one another and live in peace. We are each called to confront our own prejudices, white privilege and anything else that blocks us from affirming the dignity of each person we meet.
2. In today’s Gospel passage from John, we are reminded that: “God so loved the world that God gave God’s only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” **God so loved the world, our world**, and we are called to do the same – whether in the midst of this pandemic or in the midst of rioting and racial tensions. Let’s take a moment of quiet and think about one concrete action we can take in the week ahead to bring more love into this world our God loves so much. Finally, a gesture.

I am reminded of a priest friend of mine who loved the Trinity because, for him, to understand

the Trinity was to understand one of the most important realities in life. In fact, my friend used to say that when we sign ourselves with the Sign of the Cross it is very meaningful to say,

“In the name of the Creator and the Revealer and the Spirit of Love. For, as we know, our God is a God of love. As a friend of mine that many of you know, Mary Beth O’Neill, used to say, “The way we describe our God prescribes how we are to live.” So to make this Sign of the Cross more personally meaningful, I invite and challenge each one of us to commit to being **creators, revealers and spirits of love** more deeply than ever before and day by day.

I know we as St. Mary’s are already engaged in many activities that make a difference in our local community and that collectively express love and light in these challenging times. I am thinking of the Food Bank at St. Mary’s, the winter men’s shelter, our St. Vincent de Paul outreach, the book group led by Kathy Morefield about racism, visiting the Detention Center, the immigration walks that begin here at St. Mary’s. What more can we do? Now I ask you to take a moment to consider what next step you are prepared to make.

I invite us now to make this new Sign of the Cross! **In the name of the Creator and the Revealer and the Spirit of Love!**

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