

"Indescribable, er, Inexplicable"

Trinity Sunday – May 27, 2018

Isaiah 6:1-8

6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple
6:2 Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew
6:3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."
6:4 The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke
6:5 And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"
6:6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs
6:7 The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."
6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Romans 8:12-17

:12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--
8:13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live
8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God
8:15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"
8:16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
8:17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him

Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Most likely for about, let's say, 364 days a year, most of us probably don't give a whole lot of thought to the Doctrine of the Trinity. Once a year, on the Sunday following Pentecost we who are charged with preaching on this day, Trinity Sunday, do our best to stumble around the mystery of our faith like a somebody trying walk across a room, that is in complete darkness. Maybe like trying to walk into the bathroom in the middle of the night and doing so in consideration of a sleeping person – without turning on the light. Now when there's light you've done this maybe a million times. No problem, but in the dark even if the path is clear, concern creeps into the mind. Especially if you happen to have a big black dog that enjoys stretching out on the floor. In other words, even with all you know about your room, we're still reduced to groping in the dark to navigate your way to the bathroom.

People, pretty much, have been groping around in the dark for an intelligible explanation of God – forever.

We are all, in whole or part, people who wonder about the mystery of life. Some things you just can't explain. Like cows for instance. They always stand north and south (gesture) when they graze or lie down to rest. Don't believe it? Go home and check out your cow. Can you explain why we yawn? Or more importantly why a yawn is contagious, or more importantly still why people yawn even in the middle of an invigorating sermon? Can you explain why we

do things we know, we absolutely know, will get us in trouble with someone and we do it anyway?

Some things can't be explained. We are all people with questions, some far more perplexing than others, and none more so than the mysterious nature of God. About the God sent man who is God, Jesus. And still evident around us about the mysterious nature of the one we call Holy Spirit.

God in three persons, is a mystery that is far greater than any definition or explanation that any human being could offer. I misnamed today's sermon. I said, indescribable, but what I should have said is that God is inexplicable. God **is** indescribable in any adequate sense. We've got lots of words we use to describe the attributes of God, but, God is inexplicable in every sense and perhaps that's exactly how God wants it to be.

The Doctrine of the Trinity is purely our attempt, our human attempt to do the impossible. Explain God. What God wants us to know, to experience, to accept and to worship is this – the lord our God is one. In experiencing God we discover and we name this nature of God – triune. God is three in one – in communion with each person of God in a community if you will. A community in which we are invited to participate—maybe not to understand, but participate.

Its all about community. In Isaiah's vision God says, 'who can I send and who will go for us.' Not for me. For us. God exists in community. God was

commissioning Isaiah to go and remind people that God's desire is to be in community -- with them...with us.

And here is the point for the day. Its kind of vague so listen carefully. God is the community. God -- Creator, redeemer, and guide for life is in community and is the community. And it is God's desire that we be in community, in communal relationship with God. We who are God's children are called to share community with God so that we might not be lost, but live in God. And if we live in God our agenda changes. We no longer wish to take what belongs to the other, we wish to give them what we have.

We are called to live in community with God who is community. Father, mother, creator, sovereign lord of all: redeemer, savior, brother, son of God, mighty counselor, prince of peace, king of kings and lord of lords; advocate, Holy Spirit, comforter, guide, interpreter, breath of God, indwelling presence..... God is all of these. God is community.

And God desires for us to live in community together. For life, for health, for peace, for justice, for service, for worship, for nurture, for mission, for mercy, for protection, for courage, for all these, but most of all for love.

As mysterious as it is, as absolutely, fundamentally inexplicable as it is ... we are invited to **be** in community with God. We're not called upon or expected to explain the nature of God. We are invited to be a part of God's community. And if invited to be in community with God then also with each other. That's

why we find Jesus sitting by a camp fire with a lot of guys sleeping around him following him to Jerusalem and back desiring to get to know him. Its why church people like us come and hang out in a room full of red and feel the Holy spirit around us. Community is gathering with people like us and people not so much like us.

If we think living in community with God is mysterious and inexplicable ...then seeking out and living in community with each other may seem impossible. But all of us who have DNA at our core have God in us. God's creative, saving, inspiring presence in us. Community isn't easy. But that's a lot of sermons for a lot of different Sundays.

For today we embrace this: God is love, and if we love God and God loves us, we live in God. In community. It may be inexplicable. God may be indescribable. So what? "Embracing the inexplicable leads to lives filled with possibility. We find inexplicable joys, quiet moments of utter content knowing we are loved and led and safe. We find unexpected tragedy, the events that shape our character and produce the unique fingerprints of our one life to live. And in the process we find our influence. We find the strange, twisted and convoluted life that only we could have lived. That's how God works. It is a mystery and a marvel." It's God.

But here's the deal. And this is Jesus last word on earth so it's pretty important. This isn't an restricted or private or elite community. This community

is meant to be inclusive. We're all supposed to get caught up in the mystery. If God is inexplicable, God is inexplicable for all of us. ALL of us. Jesus intention is for all of us to be in the community. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"

Go, bring them in, don't try to explain God or defend the trinity. God is God. Just share this great thing. Jesus says, quite inexplicably, "I am with you always, to the end of the age.' And guess what trinitarians, if Jesus is there, all of God is there. Because all of God is in community. Don't try to understand it. It's inexplicable. Just take the faith God gives and use it.