

I'll be the first to admit that I have an odd relationship with Holy Trinity Sunday.

On the one hand I stand in absolute awe and wonder of the complexity of God. I am in wonder of the ways in which God interact with God's creation. Yet, Holy Trinity Sunday also leaves me dumbfounded. Dumbfounded. And that's because the Holy Trinity and its intricate workings are beyond our knowing.

If anyone tells you otherwise, they're lying.

What are we to do with this juxtaposition?

Let's get the frustrating stuff out of the way.

The word - *Trinity* - *not in the Bible. Nowhere!*

Now that's not to say that there are not Trinitarian Formulas. Jesus does say that we are to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. But *Trinity* - *the word* - *nonexistent*.

In all fairness, the Book of Revelation does *hint* at Trinitarian thought.

Angels sing: *Holy, Holy, Holy*, which has led some to believe they're referring to the Trinity, but that's a guess.

The word Trinity came onto the scene in 325 CE, after years of debate. Yet, even after the word came about folks disagreed about *how* the Trinity worked. And surprise, there are still people who disagree. We're civil, but Eastern and Western Christians - we don't agree on the Trinity.

That's only three examples!

The Trinity is not as simple, or even as understandable as we'd prefer.

What *does* Scripture say?

Holy Scripture reveals that there is a Father (or Creator if you prefer), a Son, and a Holy Spirit. Each has their own role.

The Father is the one who created the universe. The Father tries to have a right relationship with creation, but creation is stubborn. They sin.

Enter the Son - Jesus. He is the one who comes to help. The one who comes to set us free from our sin and puts us in a right relationship with God the Father.

And then there's the Holy Spirit, the advocate, the one who guides and sustains.

That's a very brief explanation.

Scripture tells us, quite a bit, but there are still questions. There are things left unanswered. Like how do all these figures interact? Are they three gods? Are they only one God at a time? Where does the Holy Spirit come from? Does the Spirit come from God, or from the Son?

The questions are endless, and for someone who is a thinker, for someone who likes answers - phew. That's frustrating.

But!

My role as pastor is not to impart my baggage onto you, but to help you understand how God is with you in yours.

To find some semblance of an answer, we need to zoom out, *way* out.

When the Apollo 11 spacecraft was sent to the moon in July 1969, each of the heads of the nations of the earth sent along a message. Each message was engraved on the silicon disc the size of 50 cent piece, which was left on the moon.

Pope Paul VI, the political head of the Vatican, sent along the text of this morning Psalm. Psalm 8.

When you next look at the moon, you can know that parked on that silvery ball are the words of the 8th Psalm.

If there's a Psalm for stargazers that's it.

Gazing at the night sky who hasn't had a way of raising the big questions, such as "Who am I? Who is God? What should I do with the few years I have on this planet?"

Psalm 8 details a creating God. It is a God who created everything, the universe, the molecules that make up me and you.

There's an interesting passage in verses 4-5a.

What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God...

It's interesting how the psalmist describes humanity. Did you know that we are a little lower than God? *That's a thought!* I would suggest we are a *lot* lower than God - remember the first commandment. Also, did you notice verse four? *What are human beings and why should God be mindful or even care about us?*

Yikes.

Am I the only one who reads that passage and feels - small, insignificant? With so much to care for, why would God give any time to me - there's got to be a lot to manage - Angel H.R. complaints and all...

Feel small?

Try this on for size.

There was an astrologer who once suggested this model; imagine that the sun, which is a star, is a size of a grapefruit. The earth would be the size of a grain of sand, about 35 feet away. The moon will be a tiny speck of sand about an inch from the earth. Venus would be at 25-foot distance away, Mars 53 feet. On this scale, the next great fruit star would be 2000 miles away, about the distance from Minneapolis to Los Angeles.

To model our home galaxy, the Milky Way, we need some 10 billion of those grapefruit stars each 1600 miles apart. And our universe is made

up of billions of such galaxies all moving away from one another. That is a massive amount of space and that is what God created and is still creating. Who are we but a tiny speck a blip in Earth's timeline? It can be very easy getting lost in the immensity of God's creation. But does it not also make you look back and say, "How majestic is Your name!" And even though God works on a grand scale we are not a blip. We are not a speck of forgotten dust.

Psalm eight tells us that humanity, *we* are here for a purpose.

Okay, truth time - I didn't read the whole end to verse 5 earlier.

Let's read it again and try to pick out what I left out.

*What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and **crowned them with glory and honor.***

We may be a little lower than God, but we receive crowns of glory and honor. In other words - we are royalty. As such God's creation is under our dominion.

That's a great deal of responsibility.

Scripture tells us that we have dominion over domestic animals, and the creatures the sky in the sea. - and to that I'd add, their well-being. Dominion.

When the word 'dominion' comes to mind, there are pictures of aggression and power that play in my mind. Dominion is wielding something over someone else. But I don't suspect that's what Psalm 8 is getting at.

The dominion the psalmist describes is not a warring dominion, but one of unity. Our royalty plays into that.

Scripture has a few things to say about royalty, and how royalty acts. Psalm 72 - a king, royalty is to be especially concerned for the poor and the needy, the weak and the powerless. This extends to the care of earth and its creatures.

The psalm implores us to be in a right incorrect relationship with God, and God's creation.

We have dominion. We are stewards, caretakers of God's creation. This helps us see God's crumb-trail - the connection between all things. We are called to see the connection all the way from the burying of a seed, or an animal in a field to its place on a plate. Everything from the hand that planted to the bee that pollinated - we care for *all* things.

That's not a stretch. Its not political. Its in Scripture, black and white: *take care of creation.*

When you boil it down the 8th Psalm is about relationship. At its core and in the simplest terms that's what the Trinity is all about.

Relationship.

That's how God is present with us in our baggage, in our day-to-day lives. We look at the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. We experience a relationship that is so steeped in love and self-sacrifice that we can only stand in awe.

While we may not be able to relate to *perfect* love, we can relate to something that makes relationships strong. Communication. For Christians - prayer. Jesus did it all the time, and we have the same opportunity.

When we pray, we may not always get what we want, but prayer is communication, nonetheless. It invites us into a deeper relationship with God and helps us see the path that had been set forth.

As people who believe in the Trinity, we are bearers of the Good News. We communicate that good news to others and to build relationships for the sake of the gospel.

In that light, the Trinity isn't something that makes me feel small and insignificant. It is something that makes me feel equipped, brave, capable. Worthy of proclaiming Jesus as the risen Savior of the world.

As we go our different ways this week, I'm not asking for you to become an eco-warrior. Just contemplate what we read in the 8th Psalm. Even if we cannot understand it completely, know that the Trinity is about relationship. And never forget that because God loves and forgives us, we get to care for, and build up God's Kingdom.

Repeat after me: Lord, let it begin with me.

Amen.