

Trinity Sunday
June 19, 2011
St. Stephen's Episcopal, Belvedere
The Rev. Shari Young, Preacher

Today is the only day of the church year that we celebrate a doctrine: The Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Spirit, Creator, Jesus:. This is a cypher that indicates both the multiplicity of the ways in which we experience God, as well the fact that we understand that at the heart of God, there is relationship. The Trinity is ultimately an image of a mystery. We human beings are walking miracles of biology living in the midst of mystery.

Father: Holy Spirit

I believe in the power of prayer. I guess you could figure that out given my profession. Because of my experience, I have trust that prayer makes things happen, makes difficult things change, brings blessing, and healing and the return of hope. It doesn't work 100% of the time, but it works often enough that I turn to pray in every difficult time.

If there are 6 billion people on planet earth do I believe that the power of prayer can work for every single one of them? Yes. This is a mystery: How can this be? Maybe we need imagination to try to grasp the mystery that we call God. I would call this Holy Spirit.

God the Creator

Did you see the movie March of the Penguins about the Emperor Penguins of Antarctica? They are large flightless birds, about 3 feet tall and they live in the coldest place on earth. Yearly they walk and slide about 75 miles across the sea ice to get to their breeding site. There the female lays one egg which is given to the male to protect for the two months of the year while the female walks back to the sea to quest for food.

The males huddle together and do a continuous slow shuffle so that they are constantly rotating from the outside to the inside of the huddle. The males do not eat during this time, and may lose half of their body weight. The females return at the end of the 2 months when the eggs are hatching, and they feed the chicks with fish

regurgitated from their stomachs. At this time, the males return to the sea to find food for themselves.

Maybe we need awe to try to understand the mystery we call God. I would call this God the Creator.

God the Son: Jesus

About 2 thousand years ago, a baby was born to a carpenter and his young wife in a backwater village in the Middle East. This child of poor people grew up to be a teacher and a holy one and his life and his death, and his miraculous resurrection from death began a movement called Christianity which claims over a billion followers.

Maybe we need grace to understand the mystery we call God. I would call this God, Jesus.

Here are some reflections about God from our Confirmation class. They prepared this as a response to what they learned.

God

+I've learned that it does not matter what you have done in the past. God still loves you and forgives you and will always watch over you and take care of you.

+I have learned that nobody is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes but as long as we are faithful to God, and don't do bad things, then we are happy and God forgives us.

+We are God's children and he is our father and that's how he treats us. I learned to turn to God in troubled times

+I feel watched over me and protected by God. I can know that no matter what happens it will be OK.

+God means Hope, trust, love and faith. This is basically God for me.

We are in this place together to celebrate a great mystery: The God of the Universe is relationship to us and knows us each by name.

Amen.