Reflection for Sunday June 7, 2020

Trinity Sunday

Theme: All in One, All in All

Scripture Reading is from First Corinthians 12: 1-6 (NRSV)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sister in Christ, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. Amen.

Personal Reflection

What Paul is talking about are those Corinthian citizens who worship dead objects (stone, wood or precious metals) that human minds and hands have shaped into their image of what God should look like. As these are dead earthbound images, they cannot help the living.

Paul presents our Gracious God and Creator God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as living, ever changing, God created, love inspired working together as the Trinity.
Paul was thinking about this:

**Creator God** – The Torah (The first five books of the Holy Scripture written by Moses), is the powerful, soul enriching and mysterious story of creation, the Exodus from Egypt after the plagues, and the journey that created the Hebrew nation that lead them to the land of milk and honey.

**Gracious God** – We know that Jesus was honored by God when he was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptizer. At the Transfiguration on Mount Hermon, we find him speaking to Moses and Elijah and a cloud enclosing them all with the encouraging words spoken to Peter, James and John.

**Jesus Christ** – In the Gospels we read many times that when the Jewish Pharisees wanted to know about who gave him authority, he said that when you see me you see the Father. The Father lives in me. To know me and to believe in me is to know and believe in the Father.

Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.” Amen. (The Gospel of John 10:25-30 NRSV)

**Holy Spirit – The Wisdom of God** – The Gospel Messages includes the Parables delivered by Jesus to the Jewish and Gentile audiences. These Gospel Messages were powerful Practical Perspectives of how to live life to the fullest. Also, these messages provided a Spiritual Proclamation about the Father, heaven, angels and his own ministry.

**Holy Spirit – The Breath of God** – Jesus healed the sick, the lame and the blind. Often the healing happened on the Sabbath to show that God loves us seven days a week. There are Gospel stories of Jesus exorcising demons from those possessed and returning them to their families. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead to show that there is a spiritual life after a physical death.
**All in One** – Our Gracious and Creator God, our Ascended Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit has shown us that each is a spirit that is holy, each is mysterious, each is full of life and each cares for us deeply and is there to comfort for us on our life’s journey. As humans we can only see and feel a very small part of their unique qualities that are offered freely to those who believe.

As we continue in self isolation as the faith family of Adolphustown Conway, we are not alone, we are wrapped in the loving arms of each of these aspects of God.

**All in All** –

God the Father is enriched by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as they were all together at the creation of the world.

In Jesus Christ we see the love of our Gracious God and the power of the Holy Spirit to teach, to heal our bodies and liberate us from sin. In Jesus, through the Gospel Messages we see the clearest image of the power and the mystery of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is enriched by Jesus Christ and the Father as this spirit lives within and carries our prayers as our Prayer Messenger and returns with the wonderful enriching gifts to support us so that we can live life to the fullest.

**Pastoral Care**

Reverend Norm Esdon - Several of you, during our calls on Sunday have asked about Reverend Norm Esdon. He is doing as well as can be expected and is creating a great deal of poetry. Perhaps another book is in the making?

Racism – Racism can be defined as when a group of people take power and subvert another group of people based on the colour of their skin, religious beliefs of any other way that one group can claim superiority over another. This form of power can take many forms: jobs, financial worth, where you live, who you marry, what you can buy and so many other ways. These forms of racism can be overt to very subtle and the full range of superior behaviour can be found in that society.

In a society where racism is evident in any form, where would Jesus be found? Where would you be found as a Christian? Remember always, we are all Children of God and so we as Christians our Love we must work to help heal the racism in our community, in Canada and in the world.
Father John Walmsley – Our Anglican community of faith in Sandhurst needs your prayers this day. Tricia has been diagnosed with a malignant tumor in her cheek and is awaiting the results of tests and consultations.

Our own faith family – We need to pray to thank God for shielding us during this pandemic. Based on my calls to all of you each week, we are healthy, resilient, and waiting patiently for our return to celebrating God together. We also need to pray for those who are recovering from illnesses: Don Weese, John Main and Kyle Macdonald.

If you know of some one else we should pray for, please let me know.

As Jesus taught the disciples to pray, we pray this day: *Our Father who are in heaven* ...........

**Closing Prayer**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of our Gracious and Creator God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit which lives with in be with you all, One in All and All in All. Amen.

**United Church website section on reopening can be found here:**

https://www.united-church.ca/covid-19?