

Holy Trinity Sunday
May 30, 2021 Sermon

There are many in our day who say they do not believe in God. Scripture calls them fools. In part, this is because everyone believes in something other and greater than themselves – except perhaps truly neurotic, insane people. To say you believe in no god is to deny that you believe in yourself at the least. The arrogance of the self gives them away. In order to begin to answer the question of “Who is God,” we need to come to the place where we are willing to ask the question, “Who is God?” We must ask this even before we declare, “You are God.” To what (or whom) do I look up to? Who, or what, is my purpose? Wherever and whenever there have been thinking people, these questions arise.

I remind you that almost eighty percent of the people on this planet are religious. That is, they believe in something greater than themselves and are a practitioner of a religion. As people in the west have become anti-religious, they (we) have become increasingly arrogant and in so doing, have become more hate-filled and angry. That’s the worst religion of all, for it is serving unknowingly the god of hatred and division. Christians understand him as the fallen angel who is leading the rebellion against the One true God in this age.

But who is this One true God? The first realization of who Jesus is, was difficult for those first disciples to comprehend. But maybe comprehend is the wrong word or idea to strive for. The one thing I have observed in this life is that things will happen whether or not I comprehend them.

We say that God is three persons and yet One God. Limited to our humanity, we do not understand. But then, how do you begin to comprehend a being who is beyond all time, is eternal, knows all things, and is the Creator of all things?

We say that this eternal being begat His only Son. God did not make Him, but He was begotten. And there never was a time when the begotten Son did not exist. So we say that God is love, and we know that love is only possible in and through relationship. God the Father and God the Son are in an eternal relationship. That relationship is love. God is love. God is the Creator. Do we dare think that God somehow stopped creating after the beginning? Some do, thinking God is far off and distant. But, do we not hear and believe that God is creating us to be children of the Heavenly Father? We say that God provides. Everyday, new life springs forth.

God is not some static being just watching, for we proclaim that the only begotten Son walked among us. We have heard the testimony. “My Lord and my God.” But then, He leaves and promises to send His Spirit. A third entity? No, Christians say this is not another God, but also God.

In our day, there does seem to be another spirit that is ruling. There is the spirit of fear. Fear of circumstances. Fear of other people. Fear of being wrong. Fear that drives us to not think, but just feel and believe that our feelings are reality. There is a spirit in our world that is causing people to make thinking people afraid. Yes, there is a spirit of this age. How can we not begin to comprehend that the Living God who is the Creator of all things does not also have His Spirit? The only begotten Son said that His Spirit would be sent to lead all who believe into righteousness.

My friends, Christianity, far from being the wimpy, weak religion for the feeble, is truly a thinking faith that will take any who go there into the depths of reality. The God of all creation invites those whom He has made to be like the One who is begotten. Like, but not the same. The created will never be the Creator, but He has given us the gift to create and so we take what

He first made and make of it other things. He does the same with all who believe. He redeems us and sets us upon the path of becoming like Jesus.

The spirit of this age would like to continue to separate you from reality, believing any of the nonsense that is out there. The Spirit of God, who is in you, leads you away from that nonsense if You are willing to walk in His counsel. Mind you, this faith is very simple. So simple that a child (and many children do), can grasp it at once. Then the spirit of this age works its wickedness to beat the truth out of us. God, who created us, loves what He has created. But something has gone quite wrong. Only one who is truly insane believes that everything in the world is alright. The world tries to beat the truth out of us, but God loves the truth into us. Of course love is kind, patient, and willing to endure for the sake of the beloved. So, while the world beats away, God is patiently holding out a loving hand of invitation for any who will take His hand and walk with Him.

There are a some cults in this world that over-think the reality of God. This too is driven by a simple thing – “I want to be in control.” Some say that there is not one God, but three gods of Christianity. But if there are three, why do we waste out time on any one of them? Why not pursue the One who is behind them and further up? Some cannot believe that God is a complex being, just as you and I are complex beings. Some want to separate God and think that there is just the One true God, but that the only begotten is not God, but somehow a lesser god. If He is begotten, then He must be God, for God begets God, just as a human begets a human, and begetting is not the same as making. But some call Jesus some kind of super man. We like that idea. Our entertainment is filled with ideas of people with super powers. Some call Jesus the brother of the wicked one. That really is nothing less that saying that all that is wrong in this age is because of some kind of cosmic sibling rivalry. These absurd ideas have been going on in this age of rebellion since Adam and Eve left the garden of paradise.

We have before us the creeds, which have been given to give us a guiding light in this age of self-centered rebellion against the One true God, who has revealed who He is and the plans He has for any who will take His hand of love.

The first of these, brought together in the revelation of the Holy Spirit, written down in parts and pieces in the *Didache* has become what we call the Apostle’s creed. Why is it called that? Because the Holy Spirit helped the Apostle’s put together our understand of who God is: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But the spirit of this age does not want us to believe in the One true God and so the continuation of thinking anything other than the truth when it comes to why we are living and what life’s purpose is.

The spirit of this age has always sought to confuse the truth. Only the truth can set us free. There is peace when one knows they are were they need to be and in the hands of the One who made them. Jesus is begotten, we are made. In those first centuries, the attempt at confusion continued – much of the confusion amongst Christians, as is true in our day, was over practice, rituals, and particular understandings, but not about this – and so, another creed came out which confronted some of the confusion. That did not put an end to it. The final of the three ecumenical creeds is pretty succinct. That was the end of the argument. The spirit of this age went to other places trying to confuse people with some of the absurdities I have already mentioned.

There is One God in three persons. We have been shown the light of His truth and His hand of love has been offered us. We see this light because His Spirit has made Him known. We have been shown the way by His Son, and not only that, can only come to Him by coming

into the love relationship which has always been. We need not figure any of these things out. So great is His love that even an un-religious criminal, hanging on a cross, can turn to Him in the last moment of life on this earth and be included in the eternal love of God.

You were created by God. You were created for God. You have been given redemption because of the Son. You know this because of the Holy Spirit. You are given the offer, "Come, follow me." Let us go together into the life and love of the One through whom all things have their being. Yes, the mystery is great, but greater still to leave behind confusion and walk in the truth of life. Amen.