

Good morning! This is Sunny Ahn, the Senior Pastor at Kona United Methodist Church. Today is Trinity Sunday. Somewhat, I am glad that today is Trinity Sunday, remembering the fundamental doctrine of Christianity—The Trinity of God.

These days our hearing is somewhat polluted and overwhelmed with so many not-so-good news....the pandemic, racism, killing, hating, looting, protesting, and so on. Honestly, I am tired of hearing all of those everyday even though I know that all are important topics and issues. My hearing of those overwhelms me.

Like Bishop Khegay preached last week, I feel like I need to hear more of the wonders of God to recharge myself and be a child of God. So, I can behave as a child of God more effectively, not driven by the issues around me, but driven by the essence of God which is LOVE. So today, I am here to declare one of the wonders of God which is the Holy Trinity on this Trinity Sunday. Let me start today's message with a story about Trinity.

**[Story]** Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And his disciples answered and said, “Some say you are John the Baptist returned from the dead; others say Elijah, or one of the prophets.” And Jesus asked them once again, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered and said, “Thou art the Logos, existing in the Father as His rationality and then, by an act of His will, being generated, in consideration of the various functions by which God is related to His creation, but only on the fact that Scripture speaks of a Father, and a Son, and a Holy Spirit, each member of the Trinity being coequal with every other member, and each acting inseparably with and interpenetrating every other member, with only an economic subordination within God, but causing no division which would make the substance no longer simple.” And Jesus said, “Uh? What are you talking about?”

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The Holy Trinity is a mystery. Telling you the truth, I do not understand the concept of Trinity fully. All my seminary trainings, all theological conversations,

education, and readings I have had explain the Doctrine of the Trinity so eloquently. But, still like Jesus in the story I just shared, I say, “Uh? What are you talking about?” So, today’s message is somewhat a monologue—questioning and answering by myself on the Trinity since today is the given day in the Western Christian liturgical calendar to remember and celebrate the Triune God—the mysterious three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

At the baptism of Jesus, according to the scripture reading for today, for the first time, three persons of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—appear together at once. Jesus was baptized then, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit came down upon Him in the form of a Dove, and then a Voice from on high followed, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16-17). Here we have the Trinity in a different form—the Father in the Voice, the Son in the human, and the Holy Spirit in the Dove.

This divine encounter of the Trinity at Jesus’ baptism shows that the Trinity is in a manner separable. When Jesus came to the river, He came from Galilee to the Jordan River where John the Baptist was; and the Dove descended from heaven to earth, and the very Voice of the Father sounded neither from the earth, nor from the water, but from heaven. These three persons of God are as it were separated in places, in offices, and in works.

At first, I was thrilled that all persons of God are coming together to celebrate the baptism of God the Son, Jesus, like many families gathering together at the baptism of their children or one of their family members. Isn’t great to see the family and friends coming together for the celebration? On social media these days, I see many pictures and videos of people coming together virtually and celebrating the graduation or birthday of family members or friends. The pandemic cannot stop people coming together to celebrate. Look, where we are now. 12 weeks ago, we did not think about coming together through online worship. But now, 12 weeks later, through online worship, we come to celebrate the goodness of God from different places. Three persons of God in today’s scripture are doing this exactly like we are doing. They came together from different places to celebrate. Isn’t it great?

And then, I had a little time to think and realize that the separateness of the Trinity, three persons of God, is not the Doctrine of the Trinity we believe as Christians. Then, I asked myself, “Where is this inseparable Triune God?” How can we justify today’s scripture at the light of the inseparable Trinity we believe?

Once again, there are many theologians trying to explain the inseparable Trinity. And, I think they all did a great job in their explanation, but I do not get it still. It is difficult for me to understand. In fact, one might say it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to understand. It is beyond our comprehension. According to A.W. Tozer's book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, of COURSE we cannot understand God. If we could wrap our finite minds around God, then our God could not be God at all! Our God is way beyond our comprehension and understanding, which is why we have to believe some things about God by faith. So, by having faith, today I declare, and I also invite you all to declare with me that (The Apostles' Creed):

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

In the conviction of this mysterious Trinity who works mysteriously for us, even in the "crazy" world we are living nowadays, we come to the Lord's Table today.

*Consecration of the Lord's Table!*