

The Dance of Creation

Message for Sunday, May 29 – by Pam Gray

Today is Trinity Sunday, when we celebrate God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three in one and yet not three but one God.

Ever since the dawn of creation, Wisdom has accompanied God. God's activity was not alone, but in tandem with Wisdom. Some understand Wisdom in association with the Word or Logos, an early manifestation of Christ. Others see Wisdom as the feminine face of God, the beauty of this earth.

Creation is about God creating order out of chaos. Somehow, God and Wisdom created the universe together in a collaborative way. I believe that creation was an orderly event, rather than just an impulsive one. God had purpose in what happened and carried it out in deliberate steps. Just as God has a purpose in everything that happens, so God had a purpose in creating the universe we live in. And yet, we still do not know all the steps that happened in creation. Science reveals some of them and we learn of new revelations all the time. Telescopes tell us that there are millions of galaxies out there and that the universe is expanding. We will probably never know all there is to know about where we live or how we got here, so it is good to have a system of faith to ground our knowledge and give order to our own chaos. Creation then, is the dance between God and Wisdom in the ordering of this universe and its development.

Christ, who came among us, told the disciples that he could not reveal all the knowledge he had to tell them at that time. He said, "You cannot bear it now". Jesus obviously knew that we learn in stages. He couldn't tell the disciples all that he knew because he knew they could not absorb it or appreciate it at that moment. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. It is true that all of us can only appreciate so much knowledge at a time. We are all at different stages in our journey of faith. That's just a fact. Have you ever been overwhelmed by a lot of knowledge that was thrown at you in a hurry? I have; I remember being completely confused by a lecture and wanted to say, "Enough already"! Sometimes, we just can't take in any more facts. We need to sit with what we have and absorb it first, before we hear any new

material.

Christ sent the Advocate, or Holy Spirit to be with us, to comfort and guide us into all truth. Just what is “all truth”?

We are guided into the truth as we can understand it. Sometimes, we cannot absorb just what is happening in our lives at the time we find out. Sometimes, the truth is so overwhelming that it may take us days or months to realize what is going on.

A lady I know has a father who had a severe stroke last year. She said that her mother has only just recently understood that he will never be able to come home, that he is confined to a wheelchair and is impaired enough that she alone cannot look after him. It has taken her 6 months to come to this realization. So, the knowledge that we have may not register with us right away. Sometimes, it is such bad news that we do not want to acknowledge it or believe it. We are in denial or disbelief.

Sometimes, our knowledge comes in stages, just like the stages of growth we have when we are very young. We don't run before we learn to walk and we can't learn math until we have mastered learning how to count. Faith is like that too. We have to have faith in God and understand how God loves us before we can learn to trust God when we need God in the everyday, let alone needing God in a crisis. That knowledge implies that we will grow. Are you seeking to grow in the knowledge and love of God? What have you done lately to seek to grow your faith? Have you read a stimulating book, joined a discussion group, or gone to hear a special speaker? How do you grow your garden if you do not fertilize your plants? Do you expect beautiful blooms when you neglect your plants? Then how can we expect to grow our faith if we do not participate in some activity to grow our faith in God? Just coming to church on a regular basis and listening to the message each week can teach you new things so that you can grow your faith. Don't refuse to let the Holy Spirit help you to grow so that you can appreciate new awareness and truth. Reach out; grow; and be brave about it because you never know just where that may take you. It could be a very exciting journey!

The Holy Spirit meets us where we are and gently takes us to the next level of understanding as we are able to absorb it. In the meantime, the Holy Spirit comforts us

and helps us re-order our lives so that we can continue to grow in faith. When we start out in life, we have no idea where our journey of faith may take us. The first step is accepting faith as a gift from God. What we may have done, who our relatives may be or where we have travelled comes second to accepting God's gift as precious. We North Americans seem to think that if we don't buy it, earn it or acquire it by our own initiative, it's not worth having. But no one can buy a gift from God. We can only accept it as graciously as possible. Then we can decide what to do with that gift, having received the guidance of the Holy Spirit as to what to do with the gift we are offered.

Recently, I had a conversation with another member of clergy about my future. He said to me, "Maybe God hasn't finished with you yet". I was comforted with that statement because for some time now, I felt as if I had come to the end of a road with nowhere to go. I did not know what lay in my future at that point. I spent some time in reflection about his words. Then I realized that I did have somewhere to make an effort to change my life in a way that perhaps God was directing me to go. Then Bruce gave me an idea to pursue. So I have taken the first step in the plan. There are still more steps to take. I don't know yet if this is what God has in mind, but at least I am following the lead of the Holy Spirit in my life to continue to contribute to the path God has set for me. I will tell you next year what the outcome is!

Jesus had things to tell the disciples; he has things to tell us too. They were trying to cope with the knowledge of his impending death. They couldn't handle any more that day. So too with us. We often do not receive information at a time when we can easily absorb it. We need to give ourselves time to reflect and ingest what we have heard. Maybe you feel that way this morning. Maybe you need time to reflect on where God wants you to go or what God wants you to do. Take that time because the Holy Spirit is sensitive to where we are in our journey of faith. Remember that "Jesus loves me; this I know, for the bible tells me so". God delights in our growth, whatever stage we are in. Roll that around in your mind: "God delights in me" and see if you don't smile when you contemplate that.

We all need to stand before Christ, the true mirror of life. We need to be justified before God, to see how we measure up to God's expectations of us. We are all wanting in

God's court. None of us has fully reached perfection in God's eyes. We need to be justified, to be acquitted, justified because of our faith in Christ, to be as much like Jesus as we can possibly be. We may be ragged around the edges but we come before God with a genuine desire to serve as Christ served. Through the action of the Holy Spirit, let us be justified to God. Let us grow in our faith throughout our lives so that we may personify the love God to the world. Amen.