

Coop's Scoops #51 June 5th 2020

A bit of Scoops and your Trinity Sunday Readings and Sermon



I'm feeling a little braggadocious this morning. Yes, we all, even clergy, can take pride in our hobbies. I painted this picture. It looks a LOT better with light shining on it, but I kind of like it and wanted to share. If you've made something you want to share...a shawl, a painting, a muffin, a lego tower...please send a photo to me so I can put it in another Scoops and share with everyone. Mine is done with oils, my favourite medium.

Now I'm not by far the only or best artist in our churches. Barely make the list! But one of Messy Church kids, Alex, drew a picture for our contest on helping the earth to be well and make lots of beautiful flowers and creatures and things. Sent in by Mom Melissa Cooper, I think it's beautiful. Thanks, Alex!



Alex's picture shows him watering a droopy plant so it can perk up and be wonderful. Good creation work!

And on the right, we see how God paints things!
Most beautiful indeed
And "hung" right outside



My home on Frau Lake.

So that concludes Art Appreciation in Scoops. I've combined a daily scoop with a Sunday scoop today so that our folks without internet can have a sample of what others get on email, rather than only the Sunday Liturgy and Sermon I usually send separately.

A couple of jokes and a story then we're on to our Scripture:

(Sent in by Caroline, and much appreciated)

- As seen on CNN John Travolta was hospitalised for a suspected Coronavirus. But doctors soon realised that it was only a Saturday Night Fever and he will be Staying Alive.
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- The barista at Starbucks was wearing a face mask.
Me: Why are you wearing a surgical mask?
She said: I'm not, it's a coughy filter.

A Trappist monk was allowed to say only two words every three years. After the first three years, he said to the Brother Superior, "Bad bed." Three years later he came back to say, "Bad food." After three more years of silence the monk said, "No TV." Another three years passed. This time the monk appeared with robes and sandals in hand and announced, "I quit." The Brother Superior answered, "It's no wonder. You've done nothing but complain since you got here!"

Scripture for Trinity Sunday:

Deuteronomy 4: 32-40 Psalm 33: 1-12 2 Corinthians 13:5-14

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Collect: Father, we praise you: through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your

life and love. Fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever . Amen.

The Sermon: Trinity Sunday can be a bit of a nightmare for preachers. It reduces me to holy shivers. It makes me realize how little I know, and how much I depend upon the Holy Spirit to lead me into truth. It reminds me that like Winnie the Pooh, I am a bear of very little brain, but also a bear of heart large enough to want to share my honey. And so I speak to you today in the name of “God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit”.

So as we focus today on probably the most important doctrine of the church – One God in three Persons - blessed trinity – we must remember that as we bow before the mystery we cannot comprehend, we also remember that bowing down does not mean bowing out completely.

The author, more likely authors, of Genesis did not speak in lofty language about the Holy Trinity, but they gave a profound nod to God being One God, but somehow plural in Person. God said “Let US make man in OUR image”. We hear that the Spirit of the Lord hovered over the waters. We hear that the Word of the Lord went forth. We are not given philosophy, or evidence, or debate...we are just told what happened.

Similarly, Paul one of the most educated people of his time, calls himself the least of the Apostles. Yet he does not write to the Corinthians in complex words or from ivory towers; he tells them simple things; have faith in Christ, be obedient, get your act together, listen to what you are being told, forgive each other, live in peace ... all words not hard to understand...and then utters for the **first time** what we say all the time as the Grace. In His words: *The love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.* Paul is speaking about the actions taken by the Persons of the Trinity on humanity’s behalf. Love caused God the Father to send Jesus, whose life and death

and resurrection restored humanity to right relationship with God, and then Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to fill us, transplanting that love of God into our own hearts so that we have a hope which cannot be disappointed. This is the gospel. The good news. The work of all three Persons of the Trinity makes our salvation possible. That is cause for the greatest celebration imaginable.

And having all of that, I can now say that my understanding of the trinity is based on the actions of the Trinity. God is love and *Love begins everything, love endures through suffering and transforms evil, and love ends in celebration.*

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives what we call the Great Commission. It too is all about action. Jesus is telling eleven men that they are to leave where they are, and go into the whole world and make disciples. Phew. Imagine that rather motley crew standing there. No longer the biblical perfect number of 12 – now just eleven deeply flawed, mostly frightened, “sort of” faithful, and mostly unpopular men. They are being told to change the world, starting now. What would we do if Jesus were to walk into St. Thomas, or St. Ambrose, or St. James, or Saint Mary Magdalene's soon (He wouldn't find any of us there right now!) and say ‘Ok, people, it's time...off you go, make disciples of all nations. How would we feel? I want to show you how one little guy feels about being called by God. This picture



of a volcano was drawn by my grandson Gregory at the age of 5. His teacher had asked the kindergarten students to draw a picture of what they would feel like if

they heard God call them, like He called little Samuel. Gregory crayoned a volcano, with the words “CALL” written at the very top. I think this drawing could be made into a card and given to every person at their baptism or confirmation or ordination. God’s call is meant to make our hearts into mighty volcanoes, just bursting with power to do the works of God. I could ask how we are doing with that, but we’d all feel more than a pinch of guilt. I’d rather just remind you. Jesus values you, trusts you, and loves you so much that He believes you are just the right kind of person for the job of making disciples. And that is cause for joy. God, you see, does not evaluate people the way we tend to...in human eyes someone may seem ordinary or not of great value, but never in God’s eyes. Do any of you remember Raskalnikov in Dostoyovsky’s great novel Crime “and Punishment?” He does an experiment in murder - singling out a man he thinks no one could possibly miss. After he kills the man, he realizes that what he considered a useless life was not useless at all. The mere fact of being human was enough to make this murdered man **glorious**. And Raskalnikov is forever haunted by his deed.

To God, no one is ordinary. Everyone is infinitely precious. Jesus knew those first disciples more than they knew themselves, and He entrusted them with the precious gift of the Gospel. Jesus considered them worthy of sharing the Gospel, and considered all people worthy of hearing it. When we learn to value ourselves and others as made in the image of God and of infinite value, then we will be motivated to take up the Great Commission and get at it.

Of course it’s daunting. We may be weak in faith, not very influential, certainly not rock stars of communication, shy or afraid or just plain tired. But, my friends, fortunately, fulfilling the Great Commission is not in fact about us alone. It is about us filled with the Holy Spirit, sent to us by Jesus, for the glory of God the Father. Jesus says “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me” and

then He entrusts us with authority to go and do likewise. And what we do, we do in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

How do we start? I suggest we start like God did. The actions of the Trinity are the models for the actions of disciples. Love began everything and sustains everything; Grace redeems and transforms everything, Love (the Father), and Grace (the Son) work together for Celebration (the Holy Spirit). Even so, for us love is what makes us begin, grace is what makes us able to suffer and to endure, and Celebration is outcome of every word and deed that plants seeds of conversion, baptism and discipleship in others. We can do it. We're just the right people for the job. We'll each do it uniquely. And the day of Celebration will come when we gather to rejoice in the wonderful works of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit accomplished in and through us. Volcano's all! Hallelujah! Amen.

Prayers for Trinity Sunday:

1/ Holy, holy, holy God,
in calling forth creation from the void,
revealing yourself in human flesh,
and pouring forth your wisdom to guide us,
you manifest your concern for your whole universe.
You invite us, as your people,
to gather the world's needs into our hearts
and bring them before you.
Holy, holy, holy God,
fill us with strength and courage,
with discernment and compassion,
that we may be your instruments of justice and love in this world, that it may be
on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

2/ God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon
and curl the baby's ear;
Spirit, brooding over chaos
before the naming of day;

Savior, sending us to earth's ends
with water and words:
startle us with the grace, love, and communion
of your unity in diversity,
that we may live to the praise of your majestic name. Amen.

3/ I Believe!

Help Thou my Unbelief!

Amen.