

Sermon – June 12, 2022

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Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

Some of you who are my age or close to, may have lived through one of the requirements of gym class (physical education), a segment on dance-for me, square dancing in particular. Maybe it was meant to promote agility or encourage a social norm... It's hard to say whether it was the sixth-grade girls or the boys who cringed more noticeably, upon entering the gymnasium, to discover the huge electronic divider doors weren't shut, the smelly mats were pushed to the sides of the floor, the ropes and rings were in place at ceiling level and the trampoline was nowhere in sight; that could only mean that an activity involving both "sides" was in store. The scratchy LP already in place on the square-box record player would soon boom forth a voice augmented by tiny, spritely, able Mrs. Bridge, (I really liked her but that is a story for another day) directing the mostly uninspired participants to do-si-do; swing your partner, or some other directive, dictating movement that should end in an orderly configuration.

Shhhhh...listen...hear...Does not wisdom call, does not understanding raise her voice?

Today, Trinity Sunday, is a midway point in our Christian year. Might we consider this a time to learn how to live in the power the Spirit has given to us? Who God is: The Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit...God the Trinity as God the Dance?

Not a ballroom dance where couples travel the floor with arms around each other. Nor a rock dance, couples separated, movements uniquely their own; not a square dance, boxed and choreographed with precise movements ending in formation. These partners and the dance are eternal. None are confused with the others and none having more importance or with more worth than another.

What is the music of this eternal dance? It echoes in the vast reaches between the stars, and pulses in worlds inside atoms, travels on every breeze across the earth, and surges with the blood through our veins. Listen too, to the music that leads each of us through the dark hours of tragedy-haven't we all been exposed to the reality of such pain in recent weeks? And perhaps the corporate misery is mixed with our individual suffering; death of a loved one, diagnosis of a dreaded disease, job insecurity, insufficient income to pay the bills, a relationship on the rocks...

Consider this: The Trinity is unending, a joyous circle dance with Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hands joined in unity, not breaking, but opening the circle, inviting others, all, to engage in this partnership. The Spirit is eager to help us move. The Son reaches out His wounded hands, the Father invites us to care for all of creation.

Shhh...listen...hear...In my exploring and experience, my understanding is that Wisdom is imparted by the Holy Spirit; the breath of God. Present from the very beginning of time. Tim Artus describes wisdom this way: Wisdom can be defined as seeing a situation as God does; acting on it as God wills; learning from it as God intended all along.

James 3:7 says: The Wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive (humble), full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Think about that-do you sense echoes of description of fruit of the Spirit written in Galatians?

If the Trinity is at the core of Creation and if the Holy Spirit gives life to Wisdom, what is it that we ought to do, to be? It may seem that day-to-day life is removed from such lofty things as receiving words of wisdom and practicing works of the Spirit. I believe, in truth, that when Lady Wisdom calls, on the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads, beside the gates and at the entrance to the portal, all of these places are the very places that you and I inhabit every day. We encounter the hungry, the sick, the sorrowful, those who are subjected to ridicule, humiliation, degradation and loss of respect, dignity, and liberty because they differ in some way from the rule makers, most of whom are privileged white people. We cannot hide from the violence of hate crimes, evident in our own back yard-a hate crime is defined as a crime, typically one involving, violence that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or similar, grounds.

If we practice the way of beloved community building, we will respond to the deep sense within ourselves that causes us to act with mercy, compassion, love, justice, courage, gratitude, thanksgiving, and peace-making.

We will delight in the “voice” of Creation, from the beginning of time. Trees, plants, animals, winged creatures and creepy crawlers. Oceans and streams, glaciers and mountain-top ice caps. Meadows and plains, moons, stars, sun and galaxies.

The wise will say yes to the invitation to join in the circle dance; being unafraid that our movements may not be perfect, our rhythm perhaps off just a beat. Assured that we are beloved children, we can answer to that cry that goes out to all that live.