

People of the Trinity

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. (Acts 2:1-4, CEB)

You already know that our congregation is called **Trinity UMC**. It's certainly not a unique name for a church. I Googled "Trinity UMC" and found many others with the same name just here within the state of Ohio. I imagine there are probably a hundred or more Trinity UMC's scattered all across our nation. But, while Trinity UMC is not a unique name, it certainly is a powerful name. One that I hope we will make every effort to claim for ourselves.

Of course, the term, Trinity, is a reference to our God, the Three-in-One. We worship One God, yes, but God is revealed to us in the form of three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Admittedly, it's a tough concept to get our minds around. We can only do our best to try and explain this mystery of God.

Sometimes, I've used the metaphor of H₂O to help people understand more clearly. H₂O can appear to us in three forms: as a solid, it's ice; as a liquid, it's water; and as a gas, it's steam. But all the while, its molecules maintain a perfect balance of two hydrogen atoms for each oxygen atom.

In a similar way, this is how God exists - one God in three persons. Together, the Trinity is a community of extravagant love and grace, into which we are invited. I would hope that we could see ourselves, then, as "People of the Trinity." In other words, people who have been claimed by God and invited into the deep fellowship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For that is God's desire for us.

Let's be honest. In churches like ours, the third member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is the One who is most often looked over. It would be like acknowledging the power of ice and water, but ignoring what steam can do. Imagine what we would miss out on if we viewed H₂O that way. Think of steam engines, for example.

But we can change our perspective and become more and more attentive to the Spirit's work in our lives. It is on this Sunday, Pentecost Sunday that we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, who in turn, gave birth to the Church universal. I invite you to be open to the movement of the Spirit as you prepare to come and gather in worship.

PS - wear red if you think of it!

Pentecost Power,

Pastor David Rittgers