

Trinity Sunday Reflection
Building Relationships
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Scripture: John 10: 22- 42

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." And many believed in him there.

Reflection:

It's hard to believe that as Christians we need a day set aside to celebrate the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In churches that recite creeds, each Sunday we affirm that we believe that God is three in one and one in three. We affirm that God created, redeemed, and sustains us. And yet.

And yet, this day is vital to our liturgical calendar because it reminds us that we were created by a God who is at the very center relational. Its hard to wrap our minds around. Further, because God is relational, we were created for relationships with God and each other.

Each year United Methodists around the world celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday on Trinity Sunday. At first glance it may seem that the celebrations have

nothing in common, until we step back and remember why we are part of working for justice, because we are in relationship with our brothers and sisters in need and we are in relationship with a God who is peace-and-justice-oriented.

This particular Sunday is also special because 50 percent of the PWJ offering money collected stays in the annual conference for projects geared at Peace with Justice while the other 50 percent go to the greater church for missions of the same purpose. This offering in particular reminds us that we are connected, globally, as a Church.

Peace, Justice, the Trinity. All concepts that are hard for our human minds to grasp, but relationships we can understand and live into, and through those relationships we can perform works greater than our individual selves that proclaim God's name and Kingdom!

Reflection Questions:

- How does your Church embrace relationships locally, at the annual conference level, and through our United Methodist connection?
- What images are helpful for you to describe the Trinity?
- How does the Trinity impact your daily living?
- How can your work for peace and justice help others see God and come to believe?
- How can you build authentic relationships in your community?