

Called to Community

God's Invitation

Day 1



Genesis 18:1–8 ... *the three in one*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ... *one will lift up the other*

Matthew 11:28-30 ... *come to me*

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ... *you are the Body of Christ (also used Day 3)*

One of the most significant challenges for a Christian minister is trying to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity. How can God be one and three at the same time? St. Patrick illustrated the Trinity by showing the Irish people the shamrock. Other ministers have shown a braided tri-color rope to represent how the three are one. And I have appreciated the demonstration that has three different colored liquids dropped into a bowl of water: as each of the three different liquids diffuse, they become one while retaining their three individual identities.

While the mystery of the Holy Trinity is difficult to explain, I have come to appreciate this mystery through an understanding that God is community: an invitational, mutually supportive, free flowing relationship where the focus is on the other person while the identity of each is retained. For me, this is how we are created in the image of God, and why we are called to be the Body of Christ and live as community.

The apostle Paul instructed that, we are the Body of Christ and individually members of it. When we appreciate the reality of our interconnectedness, we live together in a way that we share our lives more fully with each other. When one of us celebrates, all celebrate and when one of us is suffering, we all share in the sorrow. For as the Body of Christ we are created in the image of God and called to live together as community.

Can it make any difference if we know God as community? I think so. Because when we can imagine that free-flowing love and support is the nature of God, then we can be inspired to live with each other in the same way. This was the lesson that Henry Nouwen discerned during his time as chaplain to the L'Arche Daybreak Community. As he lived and served among the residents who were intellectually and developmentally challenged, he discerned that ...

“Community life is not a creation of human will but an obedient response to the reality of our being united.”

P. Gushue

For Reflection and Journaling:

Reflect upon the reality that I am joined with others as one in God.

How do I experience God's call to live as community?

Meditative Prayer:

*Mysterious God, Three-in-One
you created us in your image and invited us to live as community.
Inspire us now to live into our identify as the Body of Christ. Amen*