

Story of Creation – The dynamic invitation of God

Something was missing from today's liturgy? Who knows what it was?

The reading from the Old Testament. I haven't forgotten it – it's the story of Creation. But I thought we'd set it off and really get into this story, and then think about it a bit. So we're going to do it now.

And I'd like you to help me tell it. You all will be the first six days of creation:

Day 1 – Light and Dark

Day 2 – Stars, Sun and Moon

Day 3 – Water

Day 4 – Plants and other Leafy Green Vegetables

Day 5 – animals

Day 6 - people

Day 1 – God said what day is it? “Where's my appointment calendar? I can't find it it's too dark. Wait I know ... And God created Light and Dark....

Day 2 – Light and Dark are beautiful things, I wish I'd done that sooner. But God had no stars upon which God could wish, so God caused there to be stars in the heavens....

Day 3 – God woke up and said Creation is hard work. I'm very thirsty. I wish I had a glass of water. And this time there were stars to wish upon. And God caused waters to fall from the heavens...

Day 4 – God got up and realized that no one had turned off the tap. There was water everywhere. Even God's shoes were wet. I need something to soak up all this water. Wait, I know ... and God created plants

Day 5 – God walked out among the plants and flowers – Ah ... ah ah choo! This is very lovely, but now I think we need something to keep these plants in control, so God used all of God's creative juices and God made animals....

Day 6 – God surveyed God's creation and said Hey this is amazing, what do you think?... But there was no one there to answer. Huh, said God. I'd really like someone to talk with about all this, who might enjoy it as much as me.. So God looked in the mirror and God liked what God saw and God said, I'll make more of these. Well, almost. And God created People...

Day 7 – On the seventh day of creation God got up. God’s back hurt. God’s feet were tired. God felt very weak. And that’s why all seven days of creation are called a week.. and that’s the story of creation!

Thanks for helping to tell this story. Let’s have a round of applause for all these wonderful characters....

I invited you to be part of this story, because this is what God created us for – to be part of the story that God is telling to us and through us, to be doers of God’s Word.

This is trinity Sunday. I could have given you a nice theological treatise on the doctrine of the Trinity – three persons, one God, indivisible (with liberty and justice for all)... Two men and a bird. Father, son and Holy Ghost....

But think this year, since we are outside in creation and it’s not raining I thought we should step into the story right alongside the Creator. And mainly so we wouldn’t forget just how active, dynamic and relational God is in Creation, how active and dynamic that creation is.

One of the best explanations of the trinity I’ve heard is that God is a relationship – not three static ideas, not three costumes that God puts on, but that God is a relationship of lover, love and beloved, and those identities happen at the same time and are constantly moving in the give and take of God.

The most important question for us on Trinity Sunday is not who is God really and how do we explain God definitively, but can we recognize God in the dynamic loving interplay of the life that God has plunked us down in. The fact that God has plunked down in our lives with us, helps as well.

Can we recognize God and can we see that God is inviting us to participate in that dynamic love relationship – by our love of God and one another, our love of God’s creation, our commitment to the wild work of love.

That’s something to check out for the rest of our picnic as we share this potluck meal, as we meet up with folks that we maybe haven’t seen for awhile, or get to know some new folks that we haven’t met yet. We can practice recognizing God in our play and our prayer and the glory of this day.

Practice recognizing God and we might have something to say if someone asks us what God is like, how to find God, or how does God speak. You don’t have to give a theological answer, unless you really want to. A personal one is best. One from the heart.

So ask your parish picnic assignment is to go God hunting today – What is God creating through me today? What is God redeeming in me today? Where do I recognize the Spirit blowing through my life?

Whether we recognize God as creator, redeemer, and sanctifier, or Earth Maker, Pain Bearer, and Life Giver, or Lover, beloved and love.... Know that God wants us all to join in the fun.

Amen.