

Selling a New Improved Trinity

Sunday, May 27 2018
Rev. Dr. Anne Miner-Pearson

(Knock, knock, knock. Whistle and hum while glancing around. Knock again.)

Oh, hello. I'm so glad you're home today, what with it being Memorial Day weekend. Didn't expect to catch you, but so glad I did. Do you have a few minutes? No, I'm not selling siding or solar panels. And I'm sure from my age, you can guess I'm not selling pizzas or chocolate to fund my softball team. But you're right. I am selling you something.

I'm here today to sell you a new and improved Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, if you prefer, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

Yes, I know other salesmen - and they probably were men - have tried to interest you in buying the idea of God as Trinity, and while the theological word has appeal because you belong to a church named Trinity, I bet you've not been an excited or eager customer. Often wondering why there's a Sunday devoted to the idea. Other sales pitches have hardly convinced you even though you have to admit, they have sometimes been pretty clever. There's the mathematical formula - the three in one and one in three. But maybe you've never been much of a star in math and it seems kinda tricky anyway. Or there's the water one. You know. God as the Trinity is like water which changes form - from solid to frozen to vapor. Hmmm. But I bet I can guess the worst sales pitch of all: the ones that sounds like they came right from old, dusty notes from some seminary class. Just as boring as the class was. Old and stale, well passed its expiration date.

Well, if I'm even close to right in describing your history with the Trinity, I really thank you for giving me the time - and another chance. Because, as I said earlier, I'm here to sell you a new, improved Trinity - and I'll be brief. Trust me. It won't take long for me to tell you about the Trinity I'm trying to sell. But, first, I have to be completely transparent: there is nothing "new" about my Trinity. It's really very, very ancient and, like a lot of things, people back then tended to be connected to the basics, without all the layers added over the years in the name of "progress".

So, here's what I'd like for you to have: an image of God that's all about relationship, movement, flow. Picture a dance between Divine Energy that created all that is - stars and galaxies, sunfish and giraffes, South Africans and Georgians. Think about the energy and relationships we now know from quantum physics that exists in all life. In that same dance of energy, called love, is the same energy but with the power and purpose to hold all the pieces together, like an Alpha and an Omega, there in the beginning and all the way through to the end. One, yet also separate. The parts more than the whole. And this Divine Dance is a give and take, a flowing in and flowing out, an emptying and filling, not an "either/or", but a "both/and". And in all that movement, always there are connections within and between the unique parts, sparking dying into new life, expanding contractions into ever-further possibilities.

That's God: Being, not an idea or a concept, up here in our head or out there somewhere, to be debated or proven. But actual Being itself, Being alive, moving, creating, flowing, abundant. So, as the Trinity Play prayer goes, "God's center is everywhere and God's edge is nowhere."

That's why we sign the Trinity in one continuous movement. God can't be just Creator. Christ was in the beginning and God first became visible in the Spirit's breathe. But even those words don't work. To say three is always to say one. How could it be otherwise when Love's energy is always moving between and around?

Well, I don't want to take too much of your time. I'm almost finished and I've saved the best to the last - why I hope you buy and try this new improved Trinity. It's about you.. and about me. We live and more and have our being in this Trinity. Trinity is our address, where we always are. We each, and all creation, have a place in God's moving, dancing community of divine love. It is sheer delusion to believe that we, or any of creation, are ever separated from God. This community of divine love is the energy of the universe and what pulses and breaths in us. We live in an intimate deep connective web. All creation is interdependent and intra-dependent. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts and this oneness never expires. Nothing stale or dry about that.

So, I'll let you go now. Thanks for your kind attention. I hope you're sold.... but if not, I'll be back in the fall. Triune God is more than a one-time offer - and think of all the people who aren't here this Memorial Day weekend! Amen