

# May I Have This Dance?

## Trinity Sunday

John 3:8  
College Hill Presbyterian Church, Tulsa

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May 31, 2015

### INTRODUCTION

Today is Trinity Sunday; it is appropriate to be the Sunday after the celebration of Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit. Yet, do not anticipate I will be able to explain the Trinity to you. In fact, the Trinity is a non-biblical doctrine; the Trinity is not mentioned, as such, anywhere in Scripture, though there are passages which point to its development. It is a doctrine that was formulated in the 3d-4<sup>th</sup> centuries in an attempt to explain the Christian belief of one God in three Persons. Yet, today the doctrine is still vague at best. As Robert Capon has said, "It is like asking a cluster of oysters to describe a ballerina." So, that will not be my purpose in the sermon this morning. My purpose is to discuss some of the Biblical hints of the Trinity and then to ask how it is that we relate with this dynamic God who continues to dance among us.

### GOD IS COMMUNAL

It is very informative to me in realizing that the writers of Genesis 1 understood that God is communal. As God was creating the heavens and the earth, nature and the wide spectrum of creatures, the writer stated: **let US make humanity in OUR image.** God has conversation within Godself. The Gospel writer, St. John, also, had this in mind when he began his Gospel announcing that Jesus is the Word of God incarnate. He wrote, "Everything was created through him; nothing – not one thing! – came into being without him." Christ was present with the Creator as God was engaged in the creative activity.

In the Book of Proverbs, Wisdom is depicted as a woman who, also, claims she was present when God created the stars and the heavens. Sophia knew the secrets of the Divine Creator. Perhaps she could be identified as the Spirit of Truth of whom Jesus spoke when he told the disciples about the work of the Holy Spirit. God is communal, not monolithic. God converses within Godself as God related/relates with creation. God is a communal relationship; to be created in this Divine image means we are relational creatures as well.

The daily creation of life is the floor on which God still dances. And this God politely asks us: "May I have this dance?" God awaits our response for God will not drag us onto the dance floor. So, what is the dance for which God invites us to be partners?

### PARTNERS WITH GOD IN THE DANCE

It is appropriate for us to consider how we dance with each of the members of the Trinity for each has a unique step.

Will we be partners in the dance of creation? Each day is new and we are called to be creative forces for life with God. We are inspired by love and hope and engage ourselves in the formation of new opportunities for humanity and the world. We take seriously our being stewards of the life of creation and humanity. We cannot remain

wallflowers in the Divine dance and be faithful. The Divine Creator asks you today, "May I have this dance?"

Will we be partners in the dance of humanity with Jesus? Jesus not only revealed the essence of God to us; Jesus reveals who each of us is within God's design. Jesus is the model of human life. Jesus said that we could live the same life he lived – something we find difficult to believe and often want to deny it in order to rationalize our frailties. The Christ invites us onto the floor of life to be healers of broken lives, to be liberators of imprisoned folks, to be friends with the strangers, to be the reconcilers with those separated from us, to be the peace makers with those who terrorize, to confidently walk trusting God in the midst of the rejection of the world. Yet, so often we prefer to be the wallflowers at the Divine Dance. Christ asks you today, "May I have this dance?"

Will we be partners with the Spirit of Truth, the Advocate and the Comforter? The Spirit inspires us to live in the strength of love, in the hope of grace and the peace of Christ. To dance with the Spirit is to glide through our lives sensing the leading of the Spirit.

The verse that captivated me in this week's Gospel Lesson is this: *The wind blows where it chooses; you can hear the sound of it, though you do not know from where it comes or to where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.* To me this means that we dance not knowing where on the dance floor of life the Spirit will guide us. We can use the image of a kite floating in the sky dancing in the wind, in the Spirit.

Too often we permit our fears to weaken our availability to dance with the Spirit. We question ourselves because we rely on ourselves rather than our dance partner to lead us. Frequently I remain a wallflower with my doubts and/or unwillingness to accept the Spirit's invitation to dance. We are invited to lean into the arms of the Spirit and let the Spirit lead us across the dance floor of life. The Spirit asks us today, "May I have this dance?"

## **CONCLUSION**

Today is Trinity Sunday. It reminds us of the mystery of God, yet it is, also, the invitation to consider our participation in the dance of the Creator, the Christ and the Spirit on the dance floor of life. God today approaches each one of us and graciously, sincerely asks: "May I have this dance?"

Amen.

B. Gordon Edwards