

How do we see? Do we see with our eyes, or our hearts or even our ear? And how do we respond to what we see. This week we have witnessed protests across the USA as well as in our own country in response the murder George Floyd. The pain that is felt is about the death of this man and also the systemic and imbedded ongoing discrimination within our society.

One of the most challenging parts of bringing change is that it takes every one of us to recognise the unconscious and even conscious ways that we discriminate against each other. It requires us to notice the voices in our head when we see someone, the assumptions we make. It requires us to not only see with our eyes but with our hearts and conscience.

Change requires everyone to evaluate the attitude we bring to all relationships. It is too easy for us in our safe and diverse community to assume that this challenge is not directed at us – but it is! We all have to change, the system has to change, and the way for this to start is for us to acknowledge the small ways we discriminate against others – because so often we do this not out of malice or intent – but through assumptions and good intentions! Change will come when we work on the way we relate to each other.

Today we mark Trinity Sunday – the day in the church calendar when we acknowledge the three fold nature – or three dimensions of God. Now at one level we do this every time we pray – but on this Sunday in the church year we are invited to mark that it has been an important development in Christian theology and Christology. It is so easy for the mention of the Trinity to be about doctrine – but that is to lose the point – for the trinity is about relationship! It about our interrelationships with God and with one another.

The notion of the term trinity emerged in the early church as a way of trying to grapple with a monotheistic belief in one God in light of the early church actual, lived experience of God’s activity powerfully in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and after an encounter with the power of the Holy Spirit. The Trinity provided an answer...of sorts.

But there is so much about the trinity which is about the way we see. When I look at a person I may not see the same person that you see. It will depend on the things we know about each other, our life experiences, even our hopes. When we look at one relationship we too experience and see many different things. In some many ways the notion of the trinity is about trying to help us explain and explore the complex relationship with God in its many different expressions, and in turn our relationships with others.

This is what the early church were trying to achieve when they wrote about the Trinity – they were trying to describe their different experiences of God – no longer a

God who was only creator of the universe – but now a God they had met in Jesus, as well as a God they had felt and experienced in the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel reading today is the last 4 verses of Matthew and provides the narrative of the last recorded encounter of Jesus by the disciples. Jesus' parting words are commonly referred to as the Great Commission. But the reference of the text is much broader. The text frames the basis for the communal identity and life together for the movement that will become the church.

The commission is for all who are part of the people of God and incorporates the task of making disciples with teaching and baptizing as the movement expands around the world. The church is at its core to be living out the teachings of Jesus as a witness within their world. And perhaps most profoundly of all, Jesus promises that his presence will be with his people until the final culmination of the ages – a presence of the kingdom of God.

All relationships take energy and conversation. We have to work on our relationship with God and with each other, this is what being a Christian community means. It is how we tell of our encounter with God, and how we allow that to inform the way we value each other. Are we able to notice the work of the Holy Spirit within us, or those around us? Are we able to acknowledge God in our midst? Are we able to see each other as God see us? Our understanding of God is complex and encompassing, but it is also about the relationships we have with each other and the way that we value that each person is made in the image of God.

In the end what trinity marks is our hope for the Kingdom of God, the endless relationship and interrelationship with God and each other – relationships based on equality and justice. On this Trinity Sunday we are invited to have courage to examine our relationships, to recognise if there are attitudes and practices we need to change, and to allow God draw us in more fully to be the Kingdom of God on earth where all are valued and none are excluded. Amen