

# Coffee to Go | Trinity Sunday | Year C

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Trinity Sunday, Pentecost, Holy Spirit, God.

## SPEAKERS

Blake Smith, Karin Peter

### **Karin Peter** 00:20

Welcome to Coffee to Go where we center ourselves in the scriptures, seasons and holy days of the Christian tradition. I'm Karin Peter, and I'm here with Blake Smith. We welcome you on the journey. Today is Trinity Sunday, and that is the Sunday that follows Pentecost, the Sunday of Pentecost. And in the Christian tradition, it's where we celebrate or observe the Doctrine of the Trinity. And that is God who is experienced in three persons. So, God is creator. Traditionally, in many faith communities identified as the Father, and you still find that in many places. Jesus Christ, second person of the Trinity, is the son and the Redeemer, and then the Holy Spirit is the comforter or Sustainer. So, in other words, God is one and God is three. So, if that confuses you, welcome to the last 2000 years of Christian conversation. Because it, it has been you know what God is and how we experience God has always been mysterious and a little bit confusing. So, you can find Community of Christ, kind of basic beliefs on [cf.christ.org](http://cf.christ.org) and under Trinity, you'll find we believe in one living God who meets us in the testimony of Israel, is revealed in Jesus Christ, and moves through all creation as the Holy Spirit. We affirm the Trinity, God, who is a community of three persons. And again, you'll find that and little bit more on [cofchrist.org](http://cofchrist.org) if you type basic beliefs into the search bar. So where are we with Jesus? This week, on Trinity Sunday, we kind of do a reverse, and we do a little dive backwards, and it's because we are past Pentecost and we are getting ready to be sent out as disciples in what's called ordinary time. And that's a little nerve wracking, and it was for the original disciples as well. And change has happened. More change is coming. What will it look like? Those questions should sound really familiar to those of us in Community of Christ. So, in John, we are reminded of the words Jesus gave as he prepared to depart. So, we're kind of navigating that territory again this week. Blake, Blake,

### **Blake Smith** 03:02

Alright. Well, our passage today comes from the Gospel According to John, as you mentioned. It is the 16th chapter and the 12th through the 15th verse.

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them. Now, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but will speak whatever He hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you all that the Father has is Mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

A short passage, but a really important passage. First, if we consider the context both well the historical context of the passage, you have John writing the words that Jesus shared to the disciples, who are about to lose everything that they've invested their life in. And they're you know, we, as we read through the passage, we know they don't really get what's coming, but there is this tremendous sense of loss, and so this is an assurance for them. If we look at the historical context of who the Gospel of John would have been written to or for, they not only have lost Jesus, they have lost their connection to the to the synagogue, to the Jewish religion. They're they've separated themselves out. They've been cast out, separated out. And so, everything that has not only Jesus, but everything that has been

important in their formation, their families, all of that is has been put at risk or removed. So, they're in this place of darkness. And so what this passage does for us and for them is that it turns darkness to light. It shines a light in the darkness. It brings hope. It turns despair over. Loss, in this case again, loss of Jesus, loss of connection to the synagogue, or in our case, other losses that we experience in our everyday life. But it turns that despair over the loss of their leader into a recognition and a celebration of God's continued presence that God does not leave us alone. So, it turns dismay into hope.

**Karin Peter 05:46**

And when you're talking about that Blake, I had this little image in my mind, and it actually showed up when you're reading the Scripture, it's almost like it's dark. The disciples pop their head up out of wherever they were, whatever hole they were in, and went, Well, I guess we're on our own. Now it's kind of that image. And then all of a sudden there's this memory bubble that appears above that scene. And that memory is this quote, right, that John has Jesus saying that, no, you're not alone. You're going to have God's Spirit to be with you. And then it's kind of like, oh yeah, that's right. And then they head out. That's like my little mini movie that happened when you were reading the Scripture and then talking about that, that little, that little scene played out in my mind,

**Blake Smith 06:33**

Yeah. And I was thinking of a conversation we had last week, couple weeks ago, regarding the Holy Spirit that we often think of as the comforter. And you had mentioned that. Another way to look at that is the Holy Spirit is the reminder. Reminder will remind you of all that I have said to you so that memory, when you mention the memory bubble, you know it's those kinds of moments that in darkness and despair we remember, even though it's hard to connect with sometimes we remember the promise. And so, in this particular piece, we have made the connection of Father and Son, God and Christ, Creator and Redeemer, and Jesus mentions that in the passage, but we get a glimpse of the Triune God here at work in community. So you know, Jesus is the presence of salvation and liberation, who teaches, informs, models, commands, then Jesus returns to God, who is creator of all, center of the meaning and compassion and justice and restoration, and Jesus being God with us points to God's purposes, which he expresses as the kingdom of God, the reign of God, or the Commonwealth of God. So, we're, we're beginning to understand who God is because of what Jesus does, and now Jesus promises, and we experience the divine presence through the Holy Spirit, which comes to be that continued presence of God with us, reminding us of what we have heard and what we know to be true, but we might forget in those times of loss and despair. We experience, in short, through this passage, a bit of salvation and liberation, whether we realize it or not, because we are held in this reconciling love by the Creator, whether we accept it or not, God is always there and through the Spirit's presence, we live into God's purposes in the world, whether we deserve it or not. So, there's a lot going on, but ultimately, God does not leave us. God is always with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**Karin Peter 09:00**

I think that the separation that happens is on our end. It's like God doesn't have deserving and undeserving, right? There's, there's not that demarcation. We do that to ourselves,

**Blake Smith 09:10**

Right? And we use the terminology, where has God gone? God? You know, when I needed God, God was not there. No, no, no, no, no, no. God was always there. But we create that separation. So, some questions we might ask ourselves this week are, how do we refer to God, Jesus and this and the Holy Spirit as three or as one? You know, as you mentioned, the Trinity has, the question of the Trinity has been boggling minds for millennia, and but it is helpful for us to kind of get a grasp of how we see that for ourselves. And then, what aspects of the Divine Presence are most meaningful to you or to me, is another question that we can ask. What aspects of the Divine Presence?

**Karin Peter** 10:08

It's been, yeah, it's been really interesting. I forget how many centuries into the common era the doctrine and the Trinity was actually like formalized. But I think when we dive into Scripture and even go back into the Old Testament, we see these depictions of the Divine Presence in these different ways even there, whether it's prophetic utterings or whether it's God speaking and comforting people. And one of the things that we find when we're really, honestly delve into Scripture is that often spirit has feminine is depicted with feminine qualities and feminine presence. And so when I read this where it's all completely masculine in John's right? You know, in the Gospel of John. It's like, Fine, I get that. But when I think about what's most meaningful to me, I think about that. I think about this provides this not a not a binary expression of the nature of God, but a more inclusive expression of the nature of God as as creator, sustainer, redeemer.

**Blake Smith** 11:23

I'm glad you brought that up, because when I looked at the passage that we were going to read for today, and noticed, I think it stands out very strongly, because just this passage, and even Holy Spirit is referred to as He was incredibly masculine. But we need to remember the wisdom literature of the Old Testament that often refers to the Spirit, the Spirit as she, and so...

**Karin Peter** 11:49

We can just acknowledge that the writer of John's gospel was quite surprised when Spirit showed up.

**Blake Smith** 11:54

Yes.

**Karin Peter** 11:57

Okay, we just didn't get that part captured in the in the Gospel, so I think we're okay with that.

**Blake Smith** 12:04

So I just thought it was important that you bring it up, because yeah, listeners who might think, oh, wait a minute, that's am I supposed to be seeing this way? You know, we're, we're saying here, find that expression that is most meaningful to you. And that's okay.

**Karin Peter** 12:20

Exactly. So, we're going to experience the Trinity in a visible way. This week. We're going to do it in this way. So find three ribbons or three strings or three streamers or three really light pieces of paper, whatever, and attach them to a fan or the vent, the air vent in your car or out your office window, or even on a tree branch, if you have a tree near where you live, and each time your eye falls upon them, each time you notice them, take a moment to kind of rest in the community of that expression of three in one you have three streamers, but they're all in community. They're all being affected by the breeze and, and the wind and the climate and everything else, and they move separately, but they move together as community. So, we'll have a visual reminder of Trinity this week as we move into ordinary time.

**Blake Smith** 13:21

Alright, our blessing today comes from Celtic Daily Prayer, Book One: The journey Begins, Northumbria Community Trust.

I bless you, darling. One, in the name of the holy three, the Father, the Son and the sacred spirit, may you drink deeply from God's cup of joy. May the night bring you quiet, and when you come to the Father's Palace, may his door be open and the welcome warm.

Well, thanks for joining us here this week at coffee to go, as always, we invite you to join us next week for the next part of our journey through the liturgical seasons and holy days of the Christian tradition.