



Grain

(For the Lord says) “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.” Isaiah 66:13

Field

16Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:16-20

Thoughts. The Trinity and Gender

I know that the Trinity is supposed to engage us to think relationally. God is not fixed in one place or moving through a single venue. God is dynamically interacting between the three persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. However, the way the Trinity has been used to try to solidify God and valid human leadership as male has been and can still be exclusive. Throughout a lot of history, we have even ignored how biblically, “spirit” emerged from a feminine Hebrew word and gender-neutral Greek word. We have looked to a masculine Trinity, in the name of which men baptized.

Within my own lifetime, women were kept out of seminary in the name of a male God. Historically, religious beliefs likely influenced decisions to keep women from voting and preventing female employment in secular arenas. Today, we have an increased number of female leaders working in all levels of our church and society. Yet harm is still done in the name of God.

Several years ago, at a youth event, teenagers were asked about the first time they could remember being an activist. Youth overwhelmingly gave examples of having to speak up to challenge gender roles. They countered statements about what boys were allowed to do and what girls’ limitations were. At that time, we didn’t discuss how little room there was for gender non-binary, intersex, and transgender voices.

There are so many names for God in the Bible: Abba, Eli, Elohim, Yahweh... God is like a Mother Eagle. Jesus was a human man who included people beyond what anyone imagined during his day. The Spirit with her/they feminine and gender-neutral roots is a comforter, an advocate, spirit of truth, and is like a dove. On Trinity Sunday, let us be in awe of the dynamic movement of one God, which we cannot make static or define by any one gender. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy