

October 21, 2018

2 Corinthians 13:13 (Common English Bible)

Isaiah 40:18-31

St. James Church Logo “Triangle, Circle, and Outer Ring

The Rev. Lynn P. Lampman

What shape are you in? What shape are we in?

That question either brings you pride or a bit of shame.

For it seems there is no middle ground when it comes to how we judge ourselves regarding how we look. We either think we look good or we look bad. Don't worry, I'm not going to have a weigh in this morning. Well, maybe a little.

As the Church, and as individuals, we must ask what shape we are in? And the answer comes back: triangle and circle (both of which are good news). And what is really important about those two shapes is that God is one who has to give the answer to what shape you are in. God created triangles and circles because this is the shape God was in!

A triangle is the strongest shape due to the rigidity of its sides, which allows them to transfer force more evenly through their sides than other shapes. Triangle are used extensively in the construction of buildings and bridges.

Are we trying to live like a triangle, yet we are living more like a square with a side missing? If so, then we look at relationship, career, and other external things to prop us up. Forever reaching for things to make us feel needed-loved-purposeful-safe-supported-approved-seen-valued-important-happy-whole. In other word, always seeking to fill the gaping space that is wide open.

Then, someone or life puts pressure on us, and the we expend a

large amount of energy to keep from tumbling down. We then try and become experts in holding things together. Yet, in doing so, we end up in an almost constant state of fear knowing that at any point that side we were leaning on could fall down any time. That type of life is exhausting, and in it, there is very little room left for joy.

Yet, it doesn't have to be this way if we get and incorporate the living concept of the Trinity – the ultimate triangle. If we own our faith and seek to live it, we should stop seeing ourselves as a square, because being made in the image of the Divine, we are a triangle down. And thus, we can be unshakeable, impossible to destroy, because all that we need to stay strong is within us. And so the truth is this, no matter how much pressure you put on any of our sides, we are impossible to break. Because our foundation is strong and everything we need is contained within those three sides: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, Father/Mother, Son, and Holy Spirit. And thus, those who see the Divine as a triangle and them selves can be heard to say, “Call off the search party, everything I need is within me.”