

"Many Ways to Know God"

Trinity Sunday

May 22, 2016

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

New Horizons

Wisdom is in the streets today calling to us in all the places we live, work and play. Wisdom calls out of her continuing engagement with this world. From the moment of creation Wisdom calls as God's partner in that creation urging this world to return to God's intent and will.

Wisdom calling out in the street is one image of God's great desire to be known. For me, the primary focus of our faith story is God's coming to us again and again, desiring to be in relationship with us, caring for our lives and well-being.

Wisdom's voice is surrounded - and sometimes drowned out - by a multitude of other voices insisting on their way. We experience them in our interactions: conversations with friends and neighbors; observation as we do our shopping; listen to news broadcasts; even in our chosen entertainment. Through it all Wisdom is calling to our intelligence, urging us to live as God's people in this creation.

The chaos of our world makes us uncertain. We question things we have taken for granted. We wonder what it would mean to become partner with God and Wisdom in our time.

We can trust Wisdom. Wisdom was present with God in the creation. Wisdom understands our creation in the image of God. We belong to God. We are treasured children of God.

The created order in which we live is manifestation of a rational God, who cares for us and provides for us. Wisdom calls us to deepen our relationship with God; to share God's purpose; to realize God's intent for this world.

God created us to live in community. The gifts of creativity and intelligence we enjoy make possible the advances that enrich our lives. They produce systems that order our lives. When those systems are consistent with God's intent each person is created able to make a contribution to this world. Together we are able to address the surprises and inventions that develop. New possibilities are a part of the continuing process of creation. Life is enriched and made more abundant. Our sovereign God is way ahead of us!

We come to know God concretely in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus walked this earth as one of us. He knew the challenges and traumas of daily living. His teaching defined and clarified God's will and intent for our world. He responded to human pain and need through ministries of healing that drew people into relationship with God.

[I cannot believe Jesus was sent to start a new religion. I don't think God is interested in religion. God desires relationship with us. God is interested in this creation living in harmony and rejoicing in the gifts and talents we share.]

Jesus mission was to restore this world to God and God's purpose.

Jesus shared God's perspective with the people he encountered. He helped them to understand the purpose of the Law given to order their lives. Jesus challenged the authorities and their interpretation of the Law because he understood God's intent in giving that Law.

Jesus accepted death as a fulfillment of God's purpose and gave his life that we might know God's love for us. We know Jesus as Redeemer in the forgiveness of sin that restores us to relationship with God, and fills us with love to share.

We know God through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Spirit is recognition of our human limitations. The Spirit is the Advocate and Counselor promised by Jesus. The Spirit is

the factor that keeps us going. The Spirit is God's truth breaking through the confusion and complications of our world. It is God's presence with us in all times and places.

Lady Wisdom is calling us to be open to that Spirit present with us and directing us in our daily walk. That prickle of doubt about behavior or a decision; that motivator of action when we witness injustice; that inspiration to act on short notice: all may be the work of the Spirit accompanying us.

The Spirit guides us as we meet challenging situations and relate to one another in this world. Many issues cry out for attention: pollution and care for our earth, health and new epidemics, fair employment and wages, adequate housing for all people. The call is to address the chaos of our communities. We are challenged to human action and interaction that can improve life for all.

Our call to wisdom is a call to discover God's intent, God's alternative for this particular community of faith. In all of this the Holy Spirit keeps us aware of God's faithfulness, God's commitment to those called together in Christ's name.

Lady Wisdom calls us to claim our wisdom as we share together as God's people in this place. She calls us to become aware of and to rejoice in the variety of insights and perceptions we hold. Wisdom will lead us into new understanding and appreciation for God's will for us.

On this Trinity Sunday we are called to trust God's compassion and the presence of God's Spirit with us. We are called to be open to the new path or truth put before us; to seek first to be faithful to God's will for this congregation and our world.

Let us give thanks for all the ways we come to know God; and live to give God glory in all we do. Alleluia, Amen.