

June 4, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY

By Father David C. Robinson, SJ

From Today's Second Reading & Gospel

Live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-14

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

JOHN 3:16-18

During centuries of emerging faith and identity among the Hebrew peoples, that gradually merged with the cultural diversity of Asia Minor and its diaspora communities and Hellenistic seekers—the religious modes of interpretation surrounding God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit became ever more textured and complex. The tribes of the Exodus had made a covenant with the god *I AM*, whose mystery and power led them safely through desert reaches and dangerous territories. As they matured in faith, they discovered the God of the Torah and the path of social and political power in Israel and Judah, until the years of invasion and exile, to Babylon and beyond. By the time of Jesus' ministry, the world was dominated by Rome, and the emergence of the Messiah moved beyond the military notions of the war of liberation for the Jews, and became an incarnational promise to deepen the bond of love between God and his people. Jesus taught his followers that the love of his Abba was the love which bound all of them together, as he spoke of an unchanging link between Father, Son, and all the people inspired by the Spirit.

REFLECTION CONTINUES BELOW



Window in Sacred Heart Chapel, Orange, CA
Photo by Fr. David C. Robinson, SJ

Reflection Continued

As the first Christian communities began to share their common narrative in the gospels and the Pauline epistles, the deeper meaning of this Trinity of divine persons became more cosmic and universal, as expressed in the Gospel of John and the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. The simple nomadic tribes in communion with their God of history and destiny had become a global gathering of inspirited followers, guided by the Spirit, the Advocate Jesus promised to those who surrendered to the God beyond imagining or comprehension, who would lead humankind to a new future and a new vision of heaven and earth. This cosmically detailed yet deeply human history of a God, made known to us as Father, Son, and Spirit through the centuries, we now recognize as a divine Trinity of incarnation, inspiring grace, and a fatherhood of love that calls us with an intimate voice of promise and mission that we carry forward through all the years to come.

For Pondering

- What does it mean to you to say that we experience the life of God through the union of Father, Son, and Spirit in our own lives?
 - How would you explain to a seeker this emerging awareness of God in Christian history as a source of saving grace for all people?
 - Could you explain in a simpler narrative the discovery of the mystery of the Trinity through generations of Christian life and community?
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