

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.*

Children's sermon:

If someone is one person, can they be three? Can three people be one?  
It's impossible, right? But this is what we say about God –  
That God is one person and God is three people. Why would we say this?  
Because Jesus talked about his Father in heaven;  
he talked about himself as Son, and he talked about the Holy Spirit.  
He talked about God in three ways, as distinct persons, but also One person.

It's a little bit like this: (Cruet of water). What's in this glass? *Water*.  
Now, what would we get if we froze this? *Ice*. Is it still water? *Yes*.  
And what would we get if we boiled this? *Steam*. Is it still water? *Yes*.  
Scientists would say it did not change one bit.  
That helps us a little, but not the whole way. Because God is three persons.  
And persons think and act and move and are in relationships with other people.  
So God has relationship built in – the Father and the Son are always in  
relationship, and both with the Spirit. It's one long party, that we get to join.

My friend Willy wrote a song for three year olds:  
*God is one person, and he's also three; God is a person and he's a family.  
One, he is the Father; two, he is the Son; three, he is the Spirit –  
and they're never done!* Okay, you can go back to your parents now...

So, a lot of ink has been spilled trying to understand God as Unity and Trinity.  
And there are a lot of analogies like the water-steam-ice, orange-peel-juice,  
or the way you are at once parent, child, spouse.  
But we can't grasp the Triune God with what's between our ears; we need our hearts.  
The Trinity is not to be understood so much as experienced.  
A Father who loves beyond measure, who is love;  
a Son who gives all for us, taking up human flesh and experience and limitation,  
so that we might be able to connect to God;  
a Spirit who literally brings God home to us, bringing God inside of us.  
And these three live in community, into which we're invited.  
We're given a picture of a God who exists in perpetual, eternal relationship,  
collaborating, celebrating.

The life of God is not static – it is dynamic, it is moving.  
What’s the root of the word “dynamic”? It is “duna,” which means power.  
What’s other word has that root, that sounds like “dynamic?”  
Dynamite! Power, explosive power, catalyzing power that changes things,  
Power that disrupts the patterns of this world, and allows for building anew.

The life of God is a living, moving relationship – swirling around us,  
around our neighborhoods, sweeping us in like a conga line.  
We too are partners in an unseen dance that fills us with life.  
And filled with the life of God, Source, Begotten, and Spirit, living in us,  
we dance out into the world, giving full dimension to a God  
who cannot be restricted to the pages of a book, no matter how holy.

Hear again what Paul wrote to the church in Rome: *God's love has been poured  
into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

So, expressing God as Three, dancing with God as Three,  
allows us to express God’s love to the world:  
as the love of a Father who loves, who cannot but love;  
a Savior who heals and restores;  
a Spirit who comes alongside, comforting the lost, confronting the complacent;  
standing with the oppressed, giving hope to the despairing.

We are invited not only to join this dance here in worship,  
but to waltz on out of here, carrying the triune Love of God to the entire world.  
So I’d like us to practice this, to let our bodies do some learning here.

I invite you to get out of your seat move to the edges, so we make one big circle.  
all around the pews. Hook elbows. Now, let’s all take three steps to the left.  
And three steps to right. Four to the left, because the life of God is always  
moving forward; now three to the right, because we often return.

This is how the life of God in Trinity is ever-moving, ever relating,  
Father, Son, Spirit in an ever-loving circle, but they make room for us.  
So we take one step back now, to make room for others, people we don’t yet know.

The person I want you to be more excited to see when you come to church  
is the person you’ve never met before.

Or maybe a person you had a conversation with during the week and said,  
“Hey, join me for church on Sunday.”

We dance with God and step back, inviting others to join the dance.

And then we dance back out into the world, bringing this life to everyone. **Amen.**

**John 16:12-15**

Jesus said to the disciples, "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."

**Romans 5:1-5**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.