

Join the Dance

Trinity Sunday, Year A ~ Matthew 28:16-20

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This final passage of scripture from Matthew's Gospel is commonly referred to as The Great Commission. The risen Christ is speaking to his disciples just before he ascends to heaven, and his last, and most important instructions to them are to go out. Don't stay where you are. Don't sit behind closed doors and worship him forever. Don't get comfortable where you are. But go out. Go out, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Although Jesus refers to God by the classic three names of the Trinity in this text, he himself didn't establish the doctrine of the Trinity. This doctrine of understanding God as one God in three persons was developed by the Christian church in the first several hundred years of our existence as a way to understand how the Creator, the Christ, and the Spirit are all related to one another. It seems simple as Jesus says it, and commands us to go into the world based on the three-fold authority of God. Unfortunately, understanding the Trinity is in fact pretty complicated, and somewhere along the way the church turned inward to study and understand and worship the Trinity, and we lost sight of the very important commandment here from Jesus—that the Trinity invites us into relationship not only with God, but with the world beyond our walls. Our Trinitarian understanding of God is less something that we should study with our minds, and more something we should engage with our hearts. Our Trinitarian God is all about a God who values relationship above anything else, and not just relationship among the three persons of the Trinity—but relationship with us.

That's also what the Great Commission is really all about. Jesus is commanding us to go into the world and build relationships with people. Jesus is commanding us to teach people through our words and our actions about the love of God. Jesus is commanding us to see ourselves as a part of the divine dance, to see ourselves as instruments through which the world will come to know the extraordinary, all-encompassing love of God.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the Trinity, the church's approach has been to treat it as a concept to understand, rather than a relationship to be a part of. Richard Rohr, a Catholic priest and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation, published a book exploring the Trinity last year called *The Divine Dance*. In the book, Rohr argues passionately that the time has come to stop overthinking the Trinity as a concept, and enter the relationship to which the Trinity invites us—a relationship with God. He's going to tell us more about that relationship now, through this You Tube video called God For Us Alongside Us and God Within Us.

Video <https://youtu.be/bkKLN1WGKIM>

Father Rohr hits several points in this video, but what I hope stood out to you the most was the idea that we are invited to join the dance of the Trinity. Andrei Rublev's icon is a visual representation of that invitation. We are invited to take our place at God's table—as in

individuals and as a church. We are invited to join the work of God in the world—which takes us back to the same invitation found in the Great Commission. God’s very nature is to invite us to share in relationship with God, to join a joyous dance of love, and to take that dance into the world. May we respond to the invitation with all that we are—in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.