

**A Sermon for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Trinity Sunday  
June 15, 2025**



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## Parades

There were many parades yesterday. I was involved with one of them. All the parades, locally and nationally, were political statements. The parade I was in, the Stark Pride event, was also a plea for acceptance of differences. Our society has lots of different opinions about who and what to accept.

I am often guided in my daily prayers to pray for the conversion of my society. I saw a good example of that in a 15-year-old movie (which has been refurbished and is playing locally right now), called *How to Train Your Dragon*. The concept is the same in the 2010 and the 2025 versions. Only the technical aspects are different, since the 2010 version was completely animated, and the new version is purported to be “live action” – well, except for the CGI dragons. But the point of both films is the conversion of a violent Viking society into a playful and loving society, this change wrought through compassion. It is a good theme for our times.

Back to the parades. I am reminded of the parade in about 30 AD, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. This was a political statement too, showing a different kind of strength. Jesus rode in on a humble creature, and he showed himself to be a champion of the poor. Pontius Pilate rode in from the opposite side of the city, riding on an impressive white stallion, showing military might, a different kind of strength, the strength of an occupying force. There was an opportunity for a clear choice that day. We often have choices to express our opinions. Ours is after all a free society, even though it could use some conversion.

So how does all this relate to the Holy Trinity? This is Trinity Sunday, a day when we celebrate the beautiful concept of God in three persons, interacting with us in so many ways. Three aspects of God, sometimes named Father, Son and Holy Spirit, sometimes named Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, sometimes called Undivided Trinity One God. The concept was detailed in the year 325 at the Council of Nicaea, and we recite that orthodoxy nearly every Sunday in the Nicene Creed.

There is a danger of faith when reciting a creed that we know so well. Perhaps we recite it by rote and the words tumble past us without much thought. The creed can

become a formula, like a mathematical concept, without much life in it.

I like to think about Trinity as something more playful and interactive, like a dance of three ideas. I like to think of it with “flesh on” – that is, not just Jesus as the second person of the Trinity, our God in flesh and blood, but also our own flesh. For me, the Trinity is about our own experiences, our own flesh-and-blood encounters with God and neighbor.

Think about your own life of faith. The things that really matter are not the theological concepts. What really matters are our relationships with God and with each other.

Think of the Trinity as a big block party, with lots of music, dance, eating, greeting, and celebrating. When I went to the Stark Pride March yesterday, I witnessed a lively and loving time for a vibrant crowd. The event actually blended two different ideas, both presented with enthusiasm: The Pride march celebrated a variety of orientations. Many other participants were supporting our constitution, with signs proclaiming “No kings!” This latter effort was part of demonstrations all over the country yesterday. Everyone at the park in Canton felt free to express their opinions. It was festive and cheerful. About 150 tables were on display. The Episcopal table featured all manner of rainbow offerings, including rubber duckies, bumper stickers, multicolored plastic necklaces. and written material. All five of the Stark County Episcopal parishes were represented. I was glad to be there. I was witnessing the Trinity in action.