Today is Trinity Sunday the Sunday all preachers dread the most. When we try to make sense of how one God can be three in one…I’ll tell you right off the bat that I will not be attempting such a feat…the readings today speak of a God who is not just Father, Son and Holy spirit but also Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer and one could add many groups of three words that describe a God who is beyond description. In Genesis, we hear the creation story. I love this story because even though it’s lengthy it’s a declaration that what is in Creation is good in God’s eyes. To us, as believers that means what is in creation is good in our eyes also. We are all made in God’s image. Every person in this world is made in God’s image. God didn’t declare just the white man good or just the donkey good but God declared all humanity good and all animals and plants and the earth and the sky and everything in Creation good. But we as humans in particular are made in God’s image. When we truly understand that, then we know that we must love ourselves and know that we are inherently good and know that we must love everyone else and know that they too are made in God’s image and are good. We humans don’t always act in good ways but our basic imprint and image is of God. The problems seem to arise when certain groups of people decide that they are somehow better or more deserving then another group of people. For example, they think that they are more deserving more of the worlds’ resources then others. The Creation story tells us that there is enough for humanity and all creatures in the world if we live simply and care for our environment and make wise choices in the stewardship of resources. However, we know that Individuals owning over $100,000 in assets make up less than 11 percent of the global population but own 82.8 percent of global wealth. During the pandemic billionaires have expanded their wealth while millions of others are now on unemployment. Credit Suisse defines “wealth” as the value of a household’s financial assets plus real assets (principally housing), minus their debts. This creates a vast global disparity and inequity that puts most of the worlds’ population in a state of poverty. Just look at the number of people in northern Brown County alone who need assistance and that rely on Mother’s Cupboard and St. Vincent De Paul to survive. So Creation seems to have veered a long way from what God originally envisioned for humanity. We have witnessed riots, protests, and a funeral the past week that have no doubt brought some of you back to memories of the riots 50+ years ago during the civil rights movement. I’ve seen numerous complaints by white people that those rioting are destroying their own cities etc…I wonder how an African American would view this comment. How much stake do they have in these capitalist structures? What stakes have been given them in this country that was built on their ancestors enslavement? Many may say that that was long ago in the past but if you’ve studied the systems in this country you will see that blacks have not been afforded an equal education, places to live, opportunities for advancement in the workplace or if you are a black man a chance to be innocent until proven guilty. When will justice and a share of Creation come to the black people of this country?

The trinity is a concept of God that is mentioned in the Bible but not as a doctrine or theology. The doctrines came about through the early Catholic Church much later. However, the aspects of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are shown throughout the Bible as God being present from before the inception of Creation through all time, place, space and continuing through us today. Because of God’s presence with us and in us and in Creation we are called to do God’s work in this world through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a relationship within God which extends to us and all Creation, all the time. In my book of Holy Troublemakers the one that struck me this week is St. Francis. St. Francis is known for his love of animals and relationship with creation. What I did not realize is that his first act of extreme love was to lepers not animals. Francis had an epiphany that the treatment of lepers was inhumane. He saw that lepers were human and made in God’s image as much as anyone else on this earth. Francis would go to leper colonies and hug the lepers who lived there. Leper colonies were settlements where lepers were forced to live outside of a city, separated from everyone and everything and they were not allowed to interact with anyone who was not a leper. The quality of life that they were forced to endure on top of the disease of leprosy was inhumane to say the least. Francis would give away his inheritance to the lepers and his father became furious with him. Francis then renounced his inheritance and stripped down naked in a public place walking naked to a church where he was given a robe of harsh material to wear. It was when he gave up everything except for his love for the oppressed lepers and his love for Creation that Francis found his personal freedom. He then was able to live out his calling. I think of all the groups of people we as a society have forced to live on the margins of society, without any of the opportunities or encouragement given to people of privilege. I think of the people who are joining all over the world to say that racism is not acceptable…that the lives of our black brothers and sisters were imbued with God’s image at Creation and are still imbued with God’s image today. This is a creation that God deemed good and it is our calling and commission in the gospel to be God’s hands and feet in the world to make sure that all people know that this world is for all of us. None are excluded and black lives matter. We have been led to believe that in a Capitalist society its ok for a few to take the resources of many. That if they “earned” it then they should keep it. We have been led to believe that some people are more worthy of others. The creation story tells us that this is not just the case. It lets us know that our good stewardship of creation and each other will create a place where all will have enough. When we all have enough we will be in a balanced relationship with one another. When we all regard each other as people who are made in the image of God then no one will accept the murder of a black man in the streets by policemen. We will value lives over wealth and we will be in relationships with one another that exemplify God’s relationship within God’s self and with us. St. Francis wrote a beautiful poem that can help lead us into a peaceful world.

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;   
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;   
Where there is injury, pardon;   
Where there is doubt, faith;   
Where there is despair, hope;   
Where there is darkness, light;   
And where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;   
To be understood, as to understand;   
To be loved, as to love;   
For it is in giving that we receive,   
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,   
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.   
Amen.**