

**May 30, 2021**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
**That's Different**

**Rev. Emma Chattin,**  
**Preaching**

**First Reading** ~ *John 3:1-12*

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. "Rabbi," he said, "we know you're a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God."

Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer: "The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the Dominion of God."

Nicodemus said, "How can an adult be born a second time? I can't go back into my mother's womb to be born again!"

Jesus replied, "The truth of the matter is, no one can enter God's Dominion without being born of water and the Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. So don't be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don't know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"How can this be possible?" asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, "You're a teacher of Israel, and you still don't understand these matters?"

"The truth of the matter is, we're talking about what we know; we're testifying about what we've seen—yet you don't accept our testimony. If you don't believe when I tell you about earthly things, how will you believe when I tell you about heavenly things?"

**Second Reading** ~ *adapted from Margaret Wheatly in "Turning to One Another"*

I think it's important to begin a conversation by listening as best you can for what's different, for what surprises you. Sometimes we hesitate to listen for what's different because we don't want to change. We're comfortable with our lives, and if we listened to anyone who raised questions, then we might feel compelled to engage in new activities and new ways of thinking. Yet most of us do see things in our lives and in the world that we would like to be different. If that's true, then it means we need to listen more, not less. And we have to be willing to move into the very uncomfortable place of uncertainty.

We may simply fear the confusion that comes with new ideas in unsettled forms. But we can't be creative if we refuse to be confused. Change always starts with confusion; we must be willing to be disturbed, to let go of certainty, and cherished interpretations must dissolve to make way for what's new. Great ideas and inventions miraculously appear in the space of not knowing. If we can move through the fear and enter the abyss, we are rewarded greatly.

**Third Reading** ~ *adapted from Father Richard Rohr in "The Divine Dance: The Trinity and your Transformation"*

We must maintain a fundamental humility before the Great Mystery. If we do not, then religion always worships itself and its formulations and doctrines, and never God.

Whatever is going on in God is a flow, a radical relatedness, a perfect communion — a circle dance of love. And God is not just a dancer; God is the dance itself.