

“Swirling”
Romans 5:1-5 & John 15:12-15
May 30, 2010

It always amazes me on occasions like today when it seems as though there are so many things going on all at one time - so much activity - so many possible focuses demanding our attention. I suppose that most of the time there is one thing that is greatest importance in an individuals life that rises above everything else. Still the activities and all the things that a person has to think about all swirl together and it is hard to make heads or tails of all of the differing interests.

Today is Sunday A time to worship - it is always a day for worship and for the church that simple fact rises above the many other things that connect to this weekend. It is also graduation day for many and for those most directly involved it seems that families and communities all get caught up in those important milestone moments. It happens that this Sunday when we gather to worship on this day when young people will graduate falls on the weekend before Memorial Day. For many who have served, and in a very deep personal way for those who have lost loved one in the service of our country, there is little that could be more important. ... This is a day that began as “Decoration Day” when, at first, the graves of confederate soldiers were decorated by their loved ones to remember their sacrifice in the Civil War. Later the practice was picked up in the North and still later it was expanded to include a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for all of those who gave their lives in the causes of freedom in any of the wars in which our nation has been involved And finally to all who have served. This weekend and especially tomorrow is a time to remember and to say, “Thank you!”

For us this Sunday we gather to worship, as seniors prepare to graduate and many mark the beginning of summer by a long weekend that will include Memorial Day, and we will note a significant change in the life of our congregation as we acknowledge the end of Desiree’s time here as our Intern Pastor. Desiree’ has served faithfully as our intern for the past 21 months and now will be preparing to take her last 4 classes before she will be ready to be called to serve God and a congregation as an Ordained Pastor. It will be a significant change for our congregation and for Desiree’. We thank her for her service and pray for God’s blessings as God calls her into a specific place of service.

It is a big day A big weekend with so many different things swirling through our minds. And to recognize the fact that there is worship, graduation, Memorial Day and final internship day things to think about does not even touch the fact that each of our lives are filled with our own individual concern Farm, yard and house work to do; meals to prepare; people to see and places to go in our often harried lives.

And then on top of it all, the church wants us to focus our attention today on the Holy Trinity. It is the designation for the day. It is Holy Trinity Sunday. The scriptures pick up on the images of God who comes to us in the 3 persons of the Trinity. They are all there in our scriptures - the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost They are all there, all three plus more as the first lesson speaks of Wisdom as the first of God’s creation.

It all swirls in my head. And I can tell you this It would not be hard to focus a sermon on worship in general - it is so important as a part of our life as Christians. - - And I love talking to

and about our graduates There are so many words of encouragement that I would like to share. - - Memorial Day holds so many possibilities as we remember the gift of life sacrificed for other. - - And it would not be hard to reflect back over the past 21 months of Desiree's Internship and perhaps even to talk about the completion of Seminary education and what the beginning of ordained ministry might be like. But the Trinity It seems as though the Trinity is the hardest thing to talk about and the farthest thing from our minds.

Yet as I think about all of these things I suspect that none of this is terribly unusual. Our lives are a swirl of activities all of the time. We are drawn into a million different important things in our lives and we have to pick and choose what it is that is of greatest importance to us at the time. A lot of times there are outside factors that dictate where our priorities must lie and what to do with any given moment. Often times it seems that in the swirl of activities and interests there is simply no time or energy left to consider the place of God in it all. But God is still there Father, Son, Holy Ghost and even the Wisdom of God. Never changing - - ever present. An unseen force in our lives driving us - shaping our world.

I ran across an interesting little story about a family of mice who lived all their lives in the bottom of a large piano. To them their piano was their world and into that world came the music of the instrument, filling all the dark spaces with sound and harmony. At first the mice were impressed by it. They drew comfort and wonder from the thought that there was Someone who made the music--though invisible to them. They believed that this Someone was certainly above, yet very close to them. They loved to think of the Great Player whom they could not see. Then one day a daring mouse climbed up part of the piano into the strings and the hammers that struck them and returned very thoughtful. There was no Great Player. There were just wires - lots of wires, tightly stretched wires that trembled and vibrated when they were struck by a padded hammer. That is all there was in their world lots of wires that made their world what it was. They lived in a purely mechanical and mathematical world. The Unseen Player came to be thought of as a myth and they felt that all of those wires and hammers were what was all important in their world. But the pianist continued to play.

And so we live our lives - wires and hammers everywhere. There are meals to prepare, farming and yard work to do, graduation and a Memorial Day parade to attend, internship to complete and school work to finish up wires everywhere, and the Great Musician keeps playing the piano. There is the Father ... the Son ... the Holy Ghost and the Wisdom of God unseen in some ways ... but, oh the beauty of God's music.

The Apostle Paul speaks of the struggle and the suffering that we encounter as we live out our lives amid all of the wires and hammers that make up our daily existence. He calls us to hang in there and have our lives built up by all that swirls around us. "Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope." That is at the heart of the good word for us today. Hope hope that washes over us like the music of a great instrument with too many strings and hammers and valves for us to really keep up with. Hope that comes because ultimately we know that the piano does not play itself ... there is a Great Player that pour's love into our hearts. Father, Son, Holy Spirit I can not fathom this God ... but I hear the music and know that in those moments when I can not keep up with the world - God is in charge.

AMEN