



SERMON RECAP

MAY 31, 2026

Trinity Sunday

The Wisdom of Awe and Wonder

Prov. 2:1-10, Ecc. 3:9-15

One of the pages of “What is God Like” describes God has three dancers, moving to create beautiful art, coordinated in movement but not in total synchronization.

To me, this feels like a wonderful way to describe the Trinity. “God is like three dancers, graceful and precise. They move to the same music in very different ways, showcasing all of God’s elegance and rhythm in your life.”

Trinity Sunday has roots in the church that go back over 1000 years, and it has been fixed as the Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Church since 1333. It has a long tradition, but it is not a significant day in most Methodist churches. I have to admit I seldom pay it little heed, but the significance of reflecting on the Trinity on the same Sunday we are honoring the Wisdom of Awe and Wonder seems like a perfect fit.

The Trinity should not be a solution or the answer to a question like “What is God like?” Instead, it is a helpful tool to wrap our minds around something that is unknowable. The mystery of God’s essence cannot be satisfied with a triangle diagram, Celtic knot, or shamrock. These tools to help us understand who God is, but they cannot be our final answer.

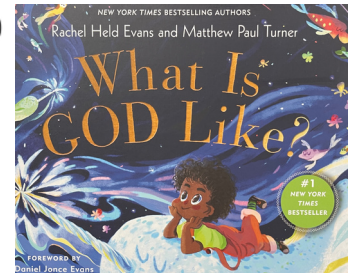
The mystery of the Trinity is that God IS relationship. God’s name in the Hebrew Bible is sometimes known as YAHWEH. Whenever you read in the Old Testament the word THE LORD in all caps like this, it is translating the Hebrew word YHWH, where are no vowels in Hebrew. The word “Jehovah” was an attempt to pronounce this Hebrew word, but is mistaken. There is no “j” sound in Hebrew, so Yahweh is our best way to say it English.

What does Yahweh mean? YHWH has connection to the Hebrew verb “to be” and is sometimes translated “I am that I am” There is a redundancy, a unity, and a self-contained mystery in this word. It is the name of God and describes a transcendent essence that cannot be fully grasped with human language.

Genesis 2 describes how YHWH created humanity to be in relationship. The human was incomplete and unhappy until there was a partner. Genesis 1 tells us that humanity was created in God’s image, “in the divine image, God created them.”



What’s God Like, by Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner. Three depictions of The Trinity that might be helpful



Proverbs tells us about Creation as well. Wisdom is with God since Creation. Wisdom is how God created, and she is deeply embedded in the fabric of all things. Proverbs 3:17 describes the relationship between God and Wisdom:

**Her ways are pleasant; all her paths are peaceful.
She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who hold her tight are happy.
The Lord laid the foundations of the earth with wisdom, establishing the heavens with understanding.
With his knowledge, the watery depths burst open, and the skies drop dew.”**

Wisdom is not about finding answers. It is about exploring mystery. The nature of God is not something that we can neatly wrap up in a bow. The best we can do is explore the truth that we find in our explanations.

God is YHWH, eternal and transcendent. There is an otherness to God that we will never fully comprehend. Still, the Wisdom literature tells us that doesn’t mean we should stop trying. There is virtue in searching for God. There is value in exploring ideas.

God is Three in One, like three dancers moving with passion to the same music. The music is justice and compassion. The movement allows us to see the redeeming Son, being willing even to die; the creating Father, making things new even in this moment; the sustaining Spirit, giving us vision and filling our dreams.

And Lady Wisdom calls out. She cries out so we will continue to search. She sings so that the dancers may dance. Or maybe she counts out the numbers so they can keep rhythm. Or maybe she is actually one of the dancers, or maybe...

NEXT WEEK:

The Wisdom of the Fear of the Lord, “Where The Wild Things Are”