

Learning Together Trinity Sunday Covid-19 – Wondering Who or What is God

Today is Trinity Sunday. Now what on earth does that mean? Well, according to the dictionary, the word “trinity” means “a group of three”. In the Christian faith, we talk about God as a “Holy Trinity”. You may have heard the names of God in Trinity:

- Father, Son and Holy Ghost
- Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
- Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver
- Maker, Redeemer, Sustainer
- Lover, Loved and Loving

This comes from us asking a very difficult question - who or what is God? We have to do some big thinking to try and answer that question! I wonder what you think about who or what is God? One popular answer to that question is to say, “God is love.” It rolls off the tongue well, but what does it mean? What do we mean when we say “love”?

Let’s look at this word “love”, then. Is it a noun or a verb? In other words, is it a thing or an action? What do you think?.....It is both, isn’t it? It is a verb or action word when I say “I love you,” but a noun or thing when I say, “I give you my love.” No matter which way I use it, though, as a noun or as a verb, there is always a relationship involved. You can’t just have love by itself. There has to be a lover and something or someone that is loved. So, if God is love, God must be a relationship, too.

Wow! Is your mind spinning yet? This is big stuff! Big like the universe! Now think about the universe – galaxies and planets all spinning around each other in space, held together in relationship with one another by forces like gravity and magnetism. Let’s get a little smaller and think about our Earth – about plants that need soil to grow and soil that needs plants to keep it from washing away. Another relationship! Look around - all of creation is built on relationships. All of creation points to a Creator of relationship.

Using what we see in the world around us and what we read in the Bible, Christians traditionally understand God as a relationship in the Holy Trinity – that the One God is a relationship of three, not three people or three gods, which could be separated from each other, but one God existing in an inseparable relationship of three. Confused yet? You can spend your whole life wondering and thinking about big questions like “who or what is God!” You don’t have to do all your wondering at once. You can take a break and come back to it whenever you want to.

Here’s a fun activity to do to remind you of the Holy Trinity using a three-sided shape – the triangle. Cut out some triangles out of paper - you can cut different sizes (*hold up a few paper triangles*) - and then see how many different things you can make just using triangles. How will you put triangles in relationship with one another to make a picture of something different? Can you make a fish? A fox? A fancy star? (*hold up different pictures*) I wonder what else you could do with triangles? Later, when you look at the pictures you made, sometimes you might think about fish or foxes, but sometimes,

when you're in the mood to think about big ideas, you can take some time to think about God and love and relationships, and what we might mean when we talk about "the Holy Trinity".

Say this echo prayer with me:

Dear God...we have many questions...and many things to think about...Thank you for showing us love...in the world you made...in the earth we live on...and in the people we live with....Help us to live with respect...and love...for all creatures...and people...and to love you...Creator...Christ...and Holy Spirit...Amen

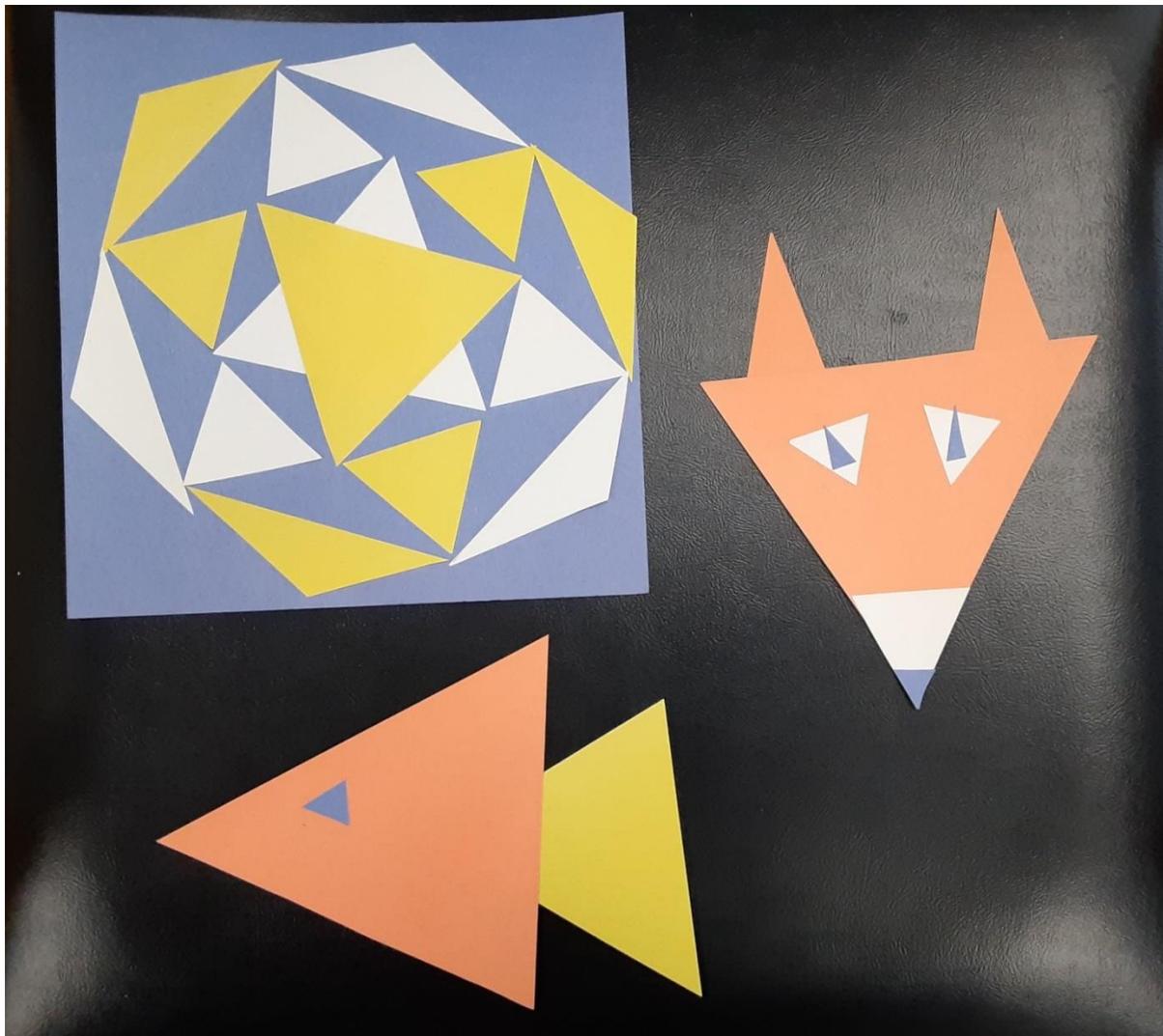


Photo by Robin Murray