

Let us pray... Holy God Triune, may we find the dance that you bring to creation and may we joyfully join in. For your dance holds space for all relationships, recognizing the dignity of all creatures. Help us embrace your rhythm and help us to make space for others... Amen.

Relationships are all around us and they are a part of us... We are entangled in more relationships than we could ever imagine or even understand...

There are the relationships we choose, the ones we make an effort to have with others... Then there are the relationships we discover from common interests or family ties...

There are even relationships that impact our very being from people we have never met... Or relationships that live on in us after our loved ones die.

Then there are relationships that make up our very bodies, from bacteria and fungi both inside and outside of us that make us healthy and allow us to thrive...

And there are the many mutualistic relationships found throughout creation... In expansive ecosystems and in the soil of this very earth...

Because, relationships make the world go round, and life is entangled and connected in ways beyond our grasp...

Perhaps, this is because life began from a very special relationship forged in the Triune God...

For, in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God... In the beginning the Spirit hovered over the face of the deep...

And if you study the Hebrew language of the Old Testament, you will be amazed to discover even more evidence of this Trinitarian relationship...

For example, one name for God in Hebrew is Elohim... And this word is not singular, it is plural... And if you go back and look over the creation text you will discover that God was actually having a conversation...

In Genesis we hear Elohim say, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness."

Humankind that was so loved by God, that the Creator became created, becoming both human and divine in the body of Christ...

Where Christ lived and was in relationship with creation...

Highlighting relationships throughout his ministry, by calling us to love one another...

Commanding that we go and make disciples of all nations through being in relationship...

And where Jesus, himself refers to the Triune relationship of God, by saying we are to make disciples by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

Baptism, which is what we are celebrating, affirming, and confirming today with Caleigh, Dylan, and Eli...

As they have been in relationship with one another and with all of us as they have grown up in faith, and they have been studying the particularities of the Lutheran faith...

They have been in relationship with Scripture, with the teachings of Jesus and learned about the roots of our faith...

As it is through being in relationship, that faith is lived out.

And it is through relationship that I have had the opportunity to witness Caleigh, Dylan, and Eli's dedication...

I have experienced their wisdom, and observed unique gifts that God has nurtured in each one of them...

Just as I have experienced, witnessed, and observed in so many of you.

Because we are church together, even on the days when we are physically apart.

As we are forever held in the Triune God's love...

And that relationship is not going anywhere...

A relationship that we can nurture when we hold each other in prayer and in faith and love...

A relationship that we can deepen as we confirm Caleigh, Dylan, and Eli affirming their baptisms.

For they were baptized as Jesus commanded, into the most beautiful and loving relationship of all, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... Amen.