

I am enchanted by the description of wisdom, the spirit of truth, in our first reading.

And I delight in this expression that says what I am engaged with as a lover of Christ is something that goes back to the beginning of time – giving me a sense of connection and understanding with all things that there have ever been.

It helps me see that for a short period, in a small geographical area, all that God is and was, was concentrated in Jesus, in such condensed form, the whole of creation in one Man – that the release of it was so powerful that we are still feeling the shock waves two thousand years later.

And although we describe God as Trinity, in some ways I would suggest that Infinity would be more appropriate because we, and all those who have gone before us, and so on into the unforeseeable future are dwelling in and have dwelling in us the energy that God has created; and we reflect and absorb the shockwaves of the love and joy at the centre of all things.

On a day to day basis we sometimes drift away from our awareness of our connection to this power source, sometimes we tune out altogether. You could work through a whole series of metaphors associated with radio-waves and varying levels of clarity of reception and maybe add in things to do with the volume button too to describe the highs and lows of our spiritual state.

I was recently disrupted – an adjective I am choosing having attended a talk this week on disruptive preaching which is not particularly my aim today – but is how I felt having read a social media post posted by a deeply thoughtful young man I know called Mark. Mark is in many ways a model of virtue – he has co-founded a charity in Uganda, works for another, cycles everywhere, has given up plastic and excessive possessions.

He says: ‘Who am I? I often think I am curating an image of myself as the type of person I would like to be, or perhaps, the type of person I would like to be seen to be. So who am I? Am I the person who is a reader, is charitable, adventurer, cyclist, ethical consumer and environmentalist? Or am I the person who without people watching may be none of these things. Am I my intentions? (who I would like to be?) Surely intentions alone are not enough? Perhaps it is intentional action? If so then I am who I would like to be. What if my intentional action is subconsciously primarily about getting approval from others? Does that count? I am then who I would like to be seen to be? Who am I?’

Do you ask the question of yourself?

I wanted to tell Mark about the spirit of truth, the wisdom of God, the power of creation, divine love – but bottled it slightly. I think he is trying his hardest to tune into God but is still at the stage of checking around the edges to see if he can see anything else out there. I sent a gentle nudge, tried to bounce a little of the spiritual energy I have received in his direction to mingle with the other sound waves he is picking up and I am trusting in God to make them into a tune that Mark will hear as his own.

My guess is that most of us when trying to improve the quality of the tuning of our spiritual lines of conversation seek quietness to do it, and what we do is a form of conversation that we might call prayer.

Some of you were here a couple of weeks ago when I tried to lead the intercessions to emphasize this **PTO**

conversation, I asked you to think about what Jesus might pray for and asked you each to claim the answer you reached as your prayer.

My experience is that the shape of the prayer you first think of is improved during the course of such a meditation.

That morning for instance, when praying for the recently married the first phrase that came into my mind was 'health, wealth and happiness' but I was immediately brought to wonder what Jesus would have in mind if he was to pray for 'wealth' in that context. My prayer was, I think, the better for that holy engagement.

Sometimes the working of the Trinity is described as 'the Divine Dance'. I understand this phrase to reflect the way the personalities of God interweave not only with each other, but also with us. I like it because it implies rhythm, beauty, closeness and delight which together are love.

I relate to this poem which I'm going to close with, by Meister Eckhart – a German monk born around 1260. I think he must have had Proverbs chapter 8 in mind:

Do you want to know
What goes on in the core of the Trinity?
I will tell you.
In the core of the Trinity
The Father laughs
And gives birth to the Son.
The Son laughs back at the Father
And gives birth to the Spirit.
The whole Trinity laughs
And gives birth to us.