

October 22, 2023



THE COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LOVE OF GOD

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

A Verse from the Gospel of John

"That they all may be one."

JOHN 17:21

Reflection

At one time or other, most people grapple with a sense of longing for something more in life. It is a search for the Divine and to know God more personally. There are times of confusion, searching, longing, and eventual discovery. Even with being introduced to God in childhood, the search has been a large piece of my journey to God.

With heart alert, I began to perceive God in the ordinary and in teachings that seemed to draw me into God's own heart. Awakening to the heart of God takes time and practice and a willingness to wait, to be still, to be lured into God's loving presence. Thanks to Father Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ, founder of the

Sisters of St. Joseph, I have found a home in the teaching on the Trinity. The Trinity offers an opportunity to relate more personally to God and offers a variety of entry points.

Our Trinitarian God is at once far beyond our human capacity to grasp, and yet, is intimately close, dwelling within my soul. While there is Only God who is One, the Trinity of persons offers us windows of opportunity for relationship, with Creator who is Father-Mother; with the Son who empties himself of Godliness to become fully human, one with us; and the Holy Spirit who inspires, unsettles, and dwells within me/us.

The Trinity teaches us how to be one, for each member is completely turned toward the others in love, generosity, and self-gift. This model helps us understand God's love as an abundant outpouring of compassion and self-gift. The unifying scripture and source of inspiration for the Community of the Great Love of God is John 17: 20-25. In this scripture Jesus prays that **“all may be one.”** As Jesus grew and deepened in relationship to God, he experienced himself as loved and completely one with the Father. This scripture is rich with the knowledge, experience, and desire for unity within the Heart of God who is Love. Jesus gives expression to God's own desire to be in relationship. Jesus reveals the yearning of the human heart for love, belonging, purpose and union.

I invite you to rest in the scripture that seeks to awaken you and me to God's great love and desire for us all. Select a few words that hold your attention and imagination. Perhaps something will inspire you and draw you closer to God, who desires to be one with us.

*“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one.** As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one. I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that **you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.** Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because **you loved me** before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:20-24)*

Each day's reflection this week will focus on one of the persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To whom are you drawn?



Lace tree
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

Pray to experience God's great love more deeply.

- What is my deepest desire?
- What is God's urgent longing for me?
- How do I experience God's great love for me, for others, for our world?
- What does the love and presence of God feel like in the deepest core of my being?

For Prayer

*Gracious God,
may all that is you flow through me.
I pray that I may be drawn more intimately into your love and desire
“that all may be one.”
Teach me your ways,
love me into wholeness,
and inspire me to be more inclusive of others
who are also well loved by you.
Protect me from all that hinders me from belonging more completely to you.
Nurture all that draws me home to you each day.
Amen.*

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