

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

It is May 24th as I write to you today, and we have entered the astrological time given over to Gemini, the Twins. In mythology, this famous pair had one mortal member and one immortal member. And things having to do with this sign are usually life-and-death, always seeking better balance but never quite attaining it. A sign fraught with duality, that is for sure.

Why am I telling you this? Before I reveal that, let me thicken the stew a little bit; I am currently enjoying a series of historical fiction novels dealing with the emergence of a unified England late in the Dark Ages. But while these gore-soaked books are blatantly about Saxons and Northmen and the endless wars of conquest they waged, the real subject matter here is the *religious* war at hand, between the

followers of the old gods, Odin, Thor, and that crowd, and those who cling to the relatively new Christian deity, our Jesus, whom they refer to as ‘the nailed god’.

What is really at stake in the novels is which *worldview* will dominate and sway the course of humankind. The self-described pagan worldview holds that the gods love chaos and disorder, and that everything is sliding right downhill all the time and will end in eternal conflagration. The Christian view, of course, is quite the opposite, presenting a God of compassion and love who desires nothing more than the upbuilding and perfecting of human society, which will end up in heaven. But as much as I would like to write off astronomy as just so much fiddle-faddle, and

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Our Purpose
To ENGAGE people in joyful relationships with God and with each other, so we will GROW in Christ-like compassion, and SHARE the blessings of the Holy Spirit.



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as much as I would like to award the religious victor's crown to Jesus, I have to admit that the duality and polarity in our world to *this very day* seems to have sorted itself out into these two timeless worldviews.

So here is what I want you to think about; which side of the coin lands heads-up for you? Which twin do you favor, not just intellectually, but in your everyday life? This is important stuff because what we believe about our common human destiny determines much of our daily reality. If your core belief leans towards the innate perversity and selfishness of people, you will live your time on earth a lot differently than if you believe in people's inherent goodness and potential. I know, it is a lot to think about on a warm, maybe hot summer day. But that does not make it unimportant to think about...

In the dualistic, Gemini-run world of the novels I have been reading, things are pretty black-and-white, with clear and rigid divisions. But in our non-fiction life, we need to be able to function in the world-sized diverse group, right? I am sure you have found that even within our own Christian faith, there is enormous polarity and discord, on pretty much every subject. And while we may hide behind doctrine or

denominational polity, I suspect that the *real* root of the discord is conflicting worldviews, conflicting understandings of the nature of God and humankind. We may not be able to change the minds or hearts of others, but we really need to know our own minds and hearts.

For good or for ill, we are not a denomination that tells you, in clear bullet points, what you *must* believe to be a follower of Jesus. But a consequence of that is that, unless we are quite clear about what we *really* think and believe, we may find other Christians incomprehensible, reprehensible, or worse. And that is just the other Christians! In the larger world it is even *more* important to own our self-understandings about the Divine and our relationships that flow from that primary pairing, because they color and inform literally everything we do.

I know, heavy subject, summer is upon us, and relaxing is right at the top of the list for most of us. But, when the iced tea is full, and the house is quiet, give this stuff some thought. In an increasingly dualistically oriented world, one can get torn apart, forced to choose sides, and without a core strength and understanding, we risk being casualties in a war we neither started nor signed up for! Avoiding thoughtless conscription is a good thing, I think!

UWIF Notes

The main topic of the May 17th meeting was Trustee chair Nancy Mayr's presentation of the needs, plans and operation of the maintenance and upkeep of the church building.

The cleaning of the badly soiled and scratched folding chairs was studied and bids solicited and being considered to include cleaning and scotchguarding.

What to do about the stage and drapes, the flooring, and some of the bathrooms as well as the air conditioning, the hot water in the kitchen, and the slow flow of the faucet were discussed.

Nancy also announced that Trinity is participating in the summer SAFE SPACE program for two weeks and snacks and brown bag items were solicited, boiled eggs and soft granola bars among the popular foods.

Her presentation ended with a tour to see the kitchen's gas stove and noting its knobs to turn on/off the burners, the use of the griddle that has a removable cover and the oven. There is an automatic switch to the large hood that carries off any dangerous fumes that might accumulate, too. Nancy emphasized the corners where the fire marshal deems nothing is to be to be put.

The current checking balance reported by the Treasurer is \$7,028.69.

Several ladies planned to gather for a potluck salad lunch on May 20th.

Future programs suggested to VP Caroline included speakers from the Food Bank and from the hospital about falls and strokes.

Neva said the Sewing Group will be meeting about embroidering and other craft projects and exact dates announced in the church bulletin.

If there is a need for a meeting before the summer break, one will be held on June 21st; otherwise, the visit to the Paradise UMC's labyrinth on June 24th will be the last activity until Sept. 20th.

Submitted by Lily Loughlin

More Trinity Family News

Congratulations

Molly Knappen graduated with her Master of Divinity from Claremont on 5/16/23, and also received The Fellowship Seminarian Award for a student who displays outstanding leadership in music and/or worship.

Molly and the whole family are so thankful for all of the support from Trinity over these last 4 1/2 years!

Submitted by Chane Binderup

From Church & Society

We were able to donate \$200 from our Fair Trade Table to Heifer International and they have a program this month with a 10X matching offer from an anonymous donor. So our donation will actually bring in \$2,000 to the organization.

Thank you all for your continued support of our efforts.

Gary Estep
TUMC Church/Society Committee

Thank You

Dear Trinity Family,

The Humphreys and extended family would like to thank all of our church family for being so thoughtful as we mourned the loss of Walt.

Your cards, calls and kindness were appreciated. Thank you as well to Pastor Dave, who was always there for us, Christina, for her beautiful voice and Mary Wahl for organizing the reception. Walt would have loved the root beer floats and popcorn.

Thank you all again,

Lorna

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN JUNE

Sunday, JUNE 4 TRINITY SUNDAY

Jesus' final earthly commands are given today in Matthew 28:16-20, commands full of both challenge and hope. The homily today will be called "Go, But Not Alone", and we will celebrate Holy Communion today as well.

Sunday, June 11

The sermon title "Influencers" is the contemporary word for a very old job description... come and hear the first century version as told in Matthew 9:9-13. A day for re-aligning our priorities!

Sunday, June 18 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUNDAY

Pastor Dave is away today at Annual Conference, and the guest speaker is not yet known, but please join us for a wonderful day of word and witness.

Sunday, June 25

Selected verses from Matthew 10 frame today's challenging and eternal topics. The message is called "Fearless and Forward Facing".