

**Sermon preached by The Rev. Charles Rowins at St. Christopher-by-the-Sea,  
Gibson Island, Maryland, Trinity Sunday, June 16, 2019.**

I like to think of Trinity Sunday as Gadget Sunday.

Now, at first glance, to suggest that God is like a gadget seems trivial. But then doesn't anything that we do to capture the essence of our Creator fall short? So, let's not worry too much about thinking of God as a gadget. Besides, it's kind of fun. The Swiss Army knife at a cosmic level. What could be more appropriate on Father's Day?

We like gadgets, don't we. One tool that does different things. We have such tools in our kitchens, in our garages, and on our desktops. Children have them in their toy bins and closets. Adults and children go to movie theatres to watch giant transformers, gadgets with the potential to destroy the earth and save the earth.

Well, the Church has a version of a Great Gadget. The Name is God. And the different things this God can do are to create, to save and to sustain. We give these functions Names: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three in One. Trinity Sunday. God as a Swiss Army Knife.

Our lessons today are carefully selected. The subject of the Proverbs lesson (**Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**) is Wisdom. Gentlemen, notice that the pronoun is "she." "The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. ... Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth ... I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

Today's Psalm (**Psalm 8**) also speaks of God as Creator. "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses." God as Power.

But also God as human being, vulnerable, uncertain about who he is, and subject to the same death that you and I experience. Jesus of Nazareth. A teacher, a healer, a carpenter, a fisher of people. Not an accident of history, but a specific act of salvation by the Creator of the Universe. Paul's Letter to the Romans is the effort of one person to share with the rest of us an understanding of God, not just as the Author of Salvation, but the provider of Salvation, in the form of a person like us.

And then we have the passage from John's Gospel (**John 16:12-15**). "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." What an amazing complement to the Creator and Savior. A third dimension with the specific purpose of helping you and me understand all the big things and all the small things, and inspire us to share our wonder and thanksgiving with others.

Now, really impressive gadgets require some instruction. The Church calls such instruction Holy Scripture. And sometimes instructions require assistance. The Church calls this assistance the Church. We help one another figure things out. We study the instructions and we try to follow them. And, like many such projects, we try and fail. And so we try again. We spend lifetimes trying. Sometimes we get discouraged, but other times we say "Bring it on." Sometimes we put the instructions aside, only to come back to them later, either because we miss the challenge or we need the help the Gadget can offer.

And, even if we get discouraged and want to toss the Gadget, never to see it again, the Gadget refuses to leave. It doesn't haunt us. It saves us. And, why not? After all, the Gadget created us. The Gadget has a stake in us. The Gadget refuses to let us go. Creates. Saves. And Sustains. "I want you to love me, but if you don't, I'm still going to care for you. And I hope that this continued love will turn your heart back to me."

Yikes! The Gadget speaks! And, yes, the Gadget loves, unto death and beyond.

Now, this understanding of God is either Folly or Wisdom. That's our ultimate choice, isn't it? From Proverbs: "Does not Wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?" For some, the answer is yes. For others, the answer is no. For still others, the answer is maybe.

My guess is that you and I have given all three answers at different points in our lives. But that's okay. Again, it is the nature of a beautifully designed gadget that we always are finding new ways to engage the gadget. Not just to open up the different parts, as in a Swiss Army knife, but to see what those different tools can do for us. It's amazing, particularly when we are talking about Creation.

And when we talk about Creation, we are not doing so in a detached manner, but in a highly personal manner. We are part of the Gadget. We can be opened ourselves. And we can do wondrous things with our tool-ness. We are functional.

Think of your gifts and talents. Think of what you're really good at. Think of the many ways in which you can help people and the created order. You are useful. Useful to God and useful to your neighbor and to your stranger and to yourself.

Sometimes opportunities present themselves to us out of the blue. We have no idea how someone learned of us. We have no idea why the person turned to us. We have no idea why the person thinks we can be helpful. Out of the blue, a new relationship exists. How did that happen? Why did it happen? Who made it possible?

Today's psalm asks the question this way: "What is man that you should be mindful of him?" Well, the answer sometimes is not obvious. We need help to understand why God should be mindful of us.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a partial answer and tells us that a fuller answer is ahead of us. "Jesus said to his disciples, 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.'"

The Risen Christ is about to leave his earthly presence, but promises that God will be with us as the Holy Spirit. The Gadget speaks and promises and assures and comforts and inspires. What an amazing instrument, this Gadget we call God. So many useful tools. And they are tools with a purpose. And we are one of those tools.

Sometimes it is not a compliment to call someone a tool. It's like calling the person a lackey, a stooge. But this is not how God thinks of us. We are rather important to God, crucial to God, special to God. We are part of, affiliated with, related to, the Greatest Gadget of All, with an assignment: love God and love neighbor. St. Paul puts it this way (**Romans 5:1-5**): "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Trinity Sunday. God in three Persons, and, through these three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - God in you and me. Pretty exciting stuff, particularly if you like gadgets and you like to help.

Amen.

