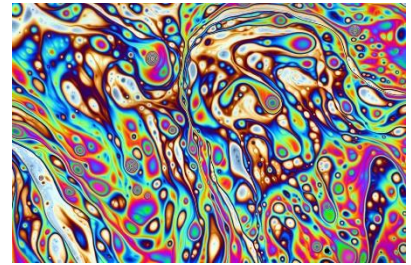


## Listening and Talking . . . by Rev. Tom Cici

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.* (Chalice Hymnal, #46)

This Doxology, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow,” is sung in the worship service at Centennial Christian Church every Sunday morning. I find the “fidget spinner” toy a helpful illustration to understand the oneness of God as the Trinity (Creator; Christ; Holy Spirit). When still, a fidget spinner clearly has three different lobes; however, when it spins, we lose sight of the distinct wings and simply see unbroken movement or flow. Even more significant than the qualities of the individual members of the One Trinitarian God is the flow of love between them.

God is a flow more than a substance. God is relational love more than a thing. And we live naturally inside that flow of love – if we do not resist it. This pattern is hidden in every atom (proton, electron and neutron), in our ecosystem, and in every aspect of our lives.



Infinite love is planted within humans and all of creation. “God is love” (1 John 4:16). Everything is attracted to everything. Life is attracted to life. Love is attracted to love. God in you is attracted to God in everyone and everything else.

Prejudice, vengeance, hatred, violence, and harshness toward other people are sinful. They hide and destroy the connectedness between people and God, and destroy the connectedness between people and God’s creation. They are spiritual poisons. If we want to serve God, if we want to do the work of Christ, if we want to live in the Spirit, then our calling is to join forces with the One Trinitarian God in knocking down the dividing walls of pride, prejudice, blame, and hostility. Instead, we are to build bridges of love, compassion, understanding, forgiveness, reconciliation, acceptance, harmony, and healing as core values. Build good relationships.

When we accept Christ’s message that God is all love and mercy, we can have eternal life now. To be sure, the gospels tell us of a heavenly afterlife, and yet Jesus proclaims that the “kingdom of heaven” is at hand. The “kingdom of heaven” is a term Jesus uses to describe humanity being inseparable from God and from one another. We live in the kingdom of heaven when we abide in God’s love and allow God’s love to flow through us to a hurting world. We are encouraged to see the flow of God’s love, and live in it.

Blessings as we serve together in the Resurrection of Christ.