

Easter 7, Year B  
May 17, 2015  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
The Rev. Shari Young, Preacher

The Buddhist came to a hot dog cart in the park. The vendor said what'll you have?" The seeker said "Make me one with everything."

In the Hindu tradition there is an ancient image of "Indra's Net." Indra is the leader of the gods, and is the god of lightening and thunder and rain.

Outside of Indra's palace, there is said to be a miraculous net which stretches infinitely in every direction. At each intersection of the net there is a multi-faceted jewel. Imagine a multi-dimensional spider's web in the early morning, covered with dew. In each dew drop, in each jewel, is the reflection of every other dew drop stretching ad infinitum in every direction. This is the Buddhist concept of the universe. Everything in the universe is interconnected and in relationship to everything else.

We resonate with this image, we feel it to be true in our gut. Science, and ecological science in recent decades have supported this concept with data. The "Butterfly Effect" which comes from chaos theory posits that a small change in the initial conditions of an event, can result in a significant alteration of the event later. It started with Edward Lorenz in 1963 making computer predictions about weather who suggested *not* that the flap of the butterfly wings caused a tornado, but that the flap of the wings represents a small change in the initial condition of the system which causes a chain of events leading to a large scale alteration of the event....a tornado.

The universe is very sensitive. We are very sensitive. We often feel like we are pursuing our own trajectory, but we are part of a system.

A planetary eco-system, a world-wide human family, a society, a municipality, a church.

Yesterday, I came upon a terrible accident on Paradise Drive just outside Paradise/Nugget market. A Senior Access van and a pick-up truck had collided, shearing off the front of the bus, and flipping over the truck. It must have happened just minutes before I got there because no police or firemen were there yet. It struck me how interwoven and caring human beings are. Cars were already pulled over; men were bending over talking to the driver of the inverted truck; others running from their cars toward the accident. When bad things happen, human beings mobilize to help.

We are also very far apart: gun violence and race relations, chaos in the Middle East. We are also radically estranged, we are not one.

Today in what is called The High Priestly Prayer from the gospel of John, Jesus prays this:

*"All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in **your name** that you have given me, so that **they may be one, as we are one.**"*

Jesus is praying for us, for his followers, for his church that we might be united, that we might be one, that we might dwell together in the Spirit. He is praying that we be protected from the darkness around us, and united in the beauty of holiness, in the presence of the holy.

Stephen Sykes, Anglican bishop of Ely, who died last September; in speaking to the differences among Anglicans (of which we have had many); said that despite all our differences we do know oneness. We are one when we worship; we are one when we share the Eucharist. We share moments of being one together. For me, the glorious music of our choir, led by John bring us together as one in audible beauty.

We share one loaf and one cup: This is the symbolism of the Eucharist. We are one for these brief moments.

And then “We go in peace to love and serve the Lord:” We go into the shimmering beautiful interconnected universe, and we go to whatever or whoever needs our ministrations, our care, our skill, our hope, or money.

The Christian came to a hot dog cart in the park. The vendor said what’ll you have?” The seeker said “Make me one with everything.”