

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your strength,
and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.

— Luke 10:27



As an organic farmer, I am concerned with the health and well-being of agricultural ecosystems, so I find it helpful to think of the Great Commandment not in terms of neighbor, but rather neighborhood.

Our most holy and blessed Trinity is an ecosystem of sorts. The Trinity is a dynamic and impossible-to-comprehend cloud of relationship. Our understanding of God was revealed in this way in part because it reflects back to us the true nature of existence. We do not live simply in relationship with God and other people. We live in intimate and incredibly complex relationship with all sorts of living and dead things, with soil communities, watersheds, tectonic plates, moons, planets and stars.

Our responsibility as followers of Jesus Christ is to try to love God and this swirling mass of life and light that God created—our neighbor and our neighborhood—as much as we love ourselves. Now that is a Lenten goal worth working toward.

— Brent Was