

Rich Lusk

In the sermon, I mentioned Rublev's "Trinity" icon. You can view that icon and learn more about it here:

http://www.rollins.edu/Foreign_Lang/Russian/trinity.html

This quotation from Henri Nouwen does a nice job explaining the icon's meaning:

"Andrew Rublev painted this icon not only to share the fruits of his own meditation on the mystery of the Holy Trinity but also to offer his fellow monks a way to keep their hearts centered in God while living in the midst of political unrest. The more we look at this holy image with the eyes of faith, the more we come to realize that it is painted not as a lovely decoration for a convent church, nor as a helpful explanation of a difficult doctrine, but as a holy place to enter and stay within...The movement from the Father toward the Son and the movement of both Son and Spirit toward the Father become a movement in which the one who prays is lifted up and held secure. . . .

Through the contemplation of this icon we come to see with our inner eyes that all engagements in this world can bear fruit only when they take place within this divine circle. The words of the psalm, "The sparrow has found its home at last. . . . Happy are those who live in your house" (Ps 84:3,4) are given new depth and new breadth; they become words revealing the possibility of being in the world without being of it. We can be involved in struggles for justice and in actions for peace. We can be part of the ambiguities of family and community life. We can study, teach, write and hold a regular job. We can do all of this without ever having to leave the house of love...Rublev's icon gives us a glimpse of the house of perfect love."

Now that I've given you a link to an icon, I have to remind you that the second commandment forbids worshipping God through icons. Icons can be wonderful pieces of religious art, but to pray before or through them, or to bow before them, or to venerate them as sacred objects infused with the divine presence, is an act of idolatry. Hence, I also have to give you a link to this by Jim Jordan:

<http://www.biblicalhorizons.com/rite-reasons/no-57-the-second-word-v-on-images-and-art-part-1/>

(All three parts are worth reading.)