



Image by British Association of
Iconographers

Rublev's Icon depicts the Holy Trinity and represents the scene of three men appearing to Abraham. The heavenly angels sit quietly around an altar with the Eucharistic cup on it. The three all have the same face. The background of house, tree and mountain show their being in the world. Grouped from left to right they are God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. On the left God wears a pale blue robe with a shimmering brown/green cloak. He blesses the chalice indicating the sorrowful mission of his Son. Jesus, in the centre, wears a purple robe and blue cloak, colours depicting Christ on icons. He wears a priestly stole and blesses the cup in a restrained gesture, indicating his sacrificial obedience. On the right sits the Holy Spirit clothed mainly in green, suggesting vigour and power.

This will be your picture so, if you wish to colour it in, please use any colours that are meaningful to you.

BIBLE PASSAGES

Deuteronomy 4:

From the day God created men and woman on this Earth Has a people ever heard, as you did, a god speaking out of the middle of the fire and lived to tell the story? (32-33) Know this well, then. Take it to heart right now: God is in Heaven above; God is on Earth below. (39)

Matthew 28:18-20

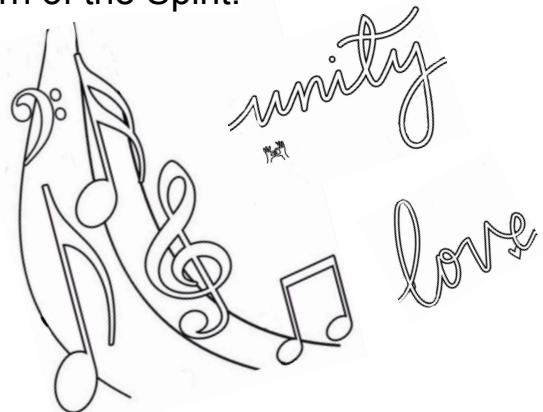
After his resurrection, Jesus came and said to his disciples, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Romans 8:3-8

A Jewish leader called Nicodemus came to Jesus asking about the things Jesus did. Jesus responded, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus responded, 'How can anyone be born again, a second time?' Jesus answered, 'Truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

POEM: Trinity Sunday by Malcolm Guite

In the Beginning, not in time or space,
But in the quick before both space and
time,
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,
In music, in the whole creation story,
In His own image, His imagination,
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,
And makes us each the other's inspiration.
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,
To improvise a music of our own,
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,
Three notes resounding from a single tone,
To sing the End in whom we all begin;
Our God beyond, beside us, and within.



Life is full of mysteries but perhaps the deepest mystery of all is the existence of God as three-in-one - the Trinity - a reality so difficult to grasp. God made the universe, and us in his own image. God is love made visible in Jesus Christ; God is our unseen companion, in life and in death. The picture above is an outline of an icon 'written' by Rublev, a 15 century Russian monk, and is known as The Trinity. Icons represent a world that is spirit but is very much a presence that is both human and divine.

In the passage from Matthew he describes what we call 'The Great Commission', when Jesus sends the disciples to pass on his teachings, to create new disciples, baptising in the name of Father, Son and Spirit. This new relationship with the Divine encompasses the three Persons of God, who is beyond us, among us, and within us. God is timeless love, whilst being above and beyond us he approaches us and makes his love visible in Jesus, who lived with us, among us, and continues to accompany us on the journey of life through the presence of the Holy Spirit. God intervenes in our lives. There are times when we experience a feeling of beyond-ness when God touches us through goodness, beauty and love; there are times when we know in our heart of hearts that Christ walks with us, especially in times of suffering and hardship; at other times, we are keenly aware of the inspiration of the Spirit, encouraging us to do what is right, to live in harmony with God's creation. In our wonderful world, even with all its injustices and troubles, God is at the heart of things.

The Trinity is the eternal mystery but not an unsolvable puzzle. God is always 'whispering in our human hearts.' In a moment of stillness, we can hear that whisper in something we see or hear, something we are thinking about, reading about, talking about, and our thoughts are raised heavenward. When we live with faith and hope and love, we encounter the mystery of God's threefold presence in the concrete experiences of our everyday lives.

The original icon is thought to have had a mirror fixed below the altar so that the person looking at it would feel themselves invited into the presence - into the unity - into the dance.

You may like to colour in Rublev's Trinity Icon above and then use it to help you spend a little time, maybe each day, listening quietly for that whisper of God to help strengthen the experience of God's presence in your life.

Bible on Pictured is produced by the Revd. Janet Parker, in the Diocese of Ely, to help by being a Ministerial Presence in challenging times.

A new picture should go up every two weeks and can be found at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-KPqLuwWi_2dcibEKwnp4dvz4CLqrs9s

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