

“Come, Holy Spirit” – Overview



*The Holy Trinity, Andrei Rublev
(also called *The Hospitality of Abraham*)*

The Trinity Prayer of Richard Rohr
(*The Divine Dance*, p 117)

God for us, we call you Father.

God alongside us, we call you Jesus.

God within us, we call you Holy Spirit.

You are the eternal mystery that enables, enfolds,
and enlivens all things,

Even us and even me.

Every name falls short of your goodness and
greatness.

We can only see who you are in what is.

We ask for such perfect seeing – as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

A. Who is the Holy Spirit? – experience and understanding

B. Weekly Outline

1. Spirit of God – Trinity
2. Spirit of Life – creation
3. Spirit of Peace – contemplation
4. Spirit of Truth – revelation
5. Spirit of Wisdom – the guidance of the Spirit
6. Spirit of Power – the gifts of the Spirit
7. Spirit of Love – the fruit of the Spirit
8. Spirit of Restoration – the work of the Spirit

“Come, Holy Spirit” – Week One Spirit of God ~ the Trinity

A. The Trinity in Scripture

1. God experienced among the Israelites – God our Creator
 - “*Shema, Israel*” (Deuteronomy 6:4)
2. God experienced in Jesus Christ – God our Redeemer
 - “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14)
3. God experienced with the Early Church – God our Sustainer
 - “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you” (2 Corinthians 13:13)

B. Pneumatology – the study of the Holy Spirit

1. The Early Church – divinity of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit
 - a. **Tertullian** (ca 160-225) – Trinity is “one substance, three persons”
 - b. **Origin** (ca 185-254) – Trinity is hierarchy of three *hypostases*
 - c. **Council of Nicea** (325 AD) – against Arius’ teaching Father alone is God – affirms the divinity of Jesus Christ – Father and Son are one *homoousios* (of one substance)
 - d. **Athanasius** (ca 296-373; bishop of Alexandria) – divinity of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit – necessary for our salvation, ‘God become human that we might become divine,’ we are ‘sharers of the divine nature through our partaking of the Spirit’
 - e. **Augustine** (ca 354-430; bishop of Hippo) – Holy Spirit is Giver, Gift, and Love, the bond of love between the Father and the Son
2. the **Cappadocian Fathers** – Greek/Eastern Church – Basil the Great (ca 330-379; bishop of Caesarea), Gregory of Nyssa (ca 335-395; bishop of Nyssa), Gregory of Nazianzus (ca 329–389; patriarch of Constantinople)
 - a. Trinity is ‘one God, three Persons’ – one *ousia* (substance, essence, being) and three *hypostases* (persons, particulars, modes of being)
 - b. necessary for salvation – ‘what Christ has not assumed, he has not healed’ (Gregory of Nyssa)
 - c. *perichoresis*, ‘circle around,’ the Divine Dance
3. The Creeds
 - a. the **Apostles’ Creed** (ca 180)

b. the **Nicene Creed** (Council of Constantinople, 381) – against Macedonius' teaching the Holy Spirit is not God – affirms the divinity of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

c. the ***Filioque Controversy***

i. Western church adds *filioque* clause (“and from the Son”) to Nicene Creed (ca 800)

ii. Great Schism between Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches (1054)

4. **Martin Luther** – the Holy Spirit is Sanctifier, “the one who makes us holy”

From *Luther's Small Catechism, explanation of the 3rd article of the Apostles' Creed*

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

C. *God is Love*

1. **Stanley J. Grenz** – the Trinity is “the community of love”

2. **Richard Rohr** – the Trinity is “the Divine Dance” – we are invited to join

D. *Practice* – from “A Litany Invoking the Holy Spirit,” (*The Divine Dance*, p 210)

Ancient Wisdom ~ Blowing Wind ~ Refining Fire

Implanted Hope ~ Indwelling Presence ~ Gift of God

Uncreated Grace ~ Homing Device

Living Water ~ Breath of Life ~ Descending Dove

Truth Speaker ~ Peace Maker ~ God Compass

Always Already Awareness ~ Advocate

Love

Biblical Images for God

- 1) Love, *agape* (1 John 4:7-8, Exodus 34:6, Psalm 86:5)
- 2) Light (1 John 1:5, John 8:12, Psalm 27:1, Isaiah 60:19-20, Revelation 22:5)
- 3) Spirit (John 4:24, Ezekiel 37:1-14, 2 Corinthians 3:17)
- 4) Shield/Fortress (Genesis 15:1, Psalm 31:3, Proverbs 30:5)
- 5) Rock (Psalm 19:14, 2 Samuel 22:2-3, Isaiah 17:10, Deuteronomy 32:18)
- 6) Father (Psalm 68:5, 89:26, Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 6:9, Mark 14:36, Luke 23:46, John 10:30)
- 7) Mother (Deuteronomy 32:11-12, Hosea 13:8, Isaiah 49:15, 66:12-13, Matthew 23:37, Luke 13:34)
- 8) Shepherd (Psalm 23, John 10, Isaiah 40:11, Ezekiel 34:11-12, 1 Peter 5:4)
- 9) Gardener (Genesis 2:8; Psalm 104:14-16, Ezekiel 31:8-9; Isaiah 51:3, John 20:15)
- 10) Farmer/Vintner (Psalm 80:8-11, Jeremiah 2:21, Isaiah 5:1-7, Matthew 21:28-31, John 15:1-8)
- 11) Builder/Architect (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 102:25, Job 38:1-7, 1 Corinthians 3:9, Hebrews 11:10)
- 12) Craftsperson (Isaiah 64:8, Jeremiah 18:6, Zechariah 13:19, Malachi 3:3, Matthew 6:30)