

Zion Children's Bulletin

June 12, 2022 (Year C) * Trinity Sunday (Ages 7+)



Hearing God's Word:

Today is Trinity Sunday, the day in which we commemorate the Holy Trinity or the 3 equal parts of God. Our gospel lesson today is John 16:12-15. Other scripture readings for this week include Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 and Romans 5:1-5.

The Blowing Wind

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¹² "I have many more things to say to you, but they are too much for you now. ¹³ But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words. He will speak only what he hears and will tell you what is to come. ¹⁴ The Spirit of truth will bring glory to me. He will take what I have to say and tell it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take what I have to say and tell it to you.

Join us for worship Sunday mornings at 10am.

Virtual worship available at:

www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive

Children's Church available during most worship services.

Sunday School resumes September 11th!



...Father, Son, Holy Spirit

...Mother, Son, Holy Spirit

...Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit

...Creator, Healer, and Comforter

...GOD

Children's Moment: The Mystery of the Trinity

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Do you like mystery stories? When I was young, I loved to read mystery books. My favorites were the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew. Recently, I saw a good mystery book, "What Really Happened to Humpty?: From the Files of a Hard-Boiled Detective." We all know that

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall, but in this book Humpty's brother Joe Dumpty who is a detective, investigates to try to find out what really happened. Did Humpty fall, or was he pushed off that wall? If he was pushed, who did it? Was it Little Miss Muffet, Goldilocks, Old Mother Hubbard, or the evil Big Bad Wolf? I won't spoil the mystery by telling you the ending. You will just have to read it for yourself.

Today we are going to learn about a different kind of mystery. Today is a special day in the church called Trinity Sunday. Do you know what Trinity means? The first thing I want to ask you is, how many Gods are there? Right, there is only one true God. The Bible says there is "One God and Creator of all," but God is made up of three persons – the Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, also referred to as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, or the Creator, Healer, and Comforter. Trinity simply refers to the number three. You probably noticed regardless of the description each was grouped in three's? Perhaps you have noticed that when someone is baptized the pastor says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." Have you ever heard that before? Good! Now you will know when you hear those words – Father, Son and Holy Spirit — we are talking about the Trinity — one God in three persons.

As simple as that sounds, the Trinity is hard to understand. It is a mystery to us - something we can think about and wonder about. People have used many, many different things to try and help explain what the trinity is. Since we started out today talking about Humpty Dumpty, I think I'll use an egg! Imagine you are holding a hard-boiled egg in your hand. As you probably know, an egg is made up of three parts. The first part is the shell. (Pretend you crack that egg open and



*But when he, the Spirit
of truth, comes, he will
guide you into all truth.*

John 16:13

Directions

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread anise and caraway seeds in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Toast until fragrant, 5 to 8 minutes. Let cool completely. Coarsely grind toasted seeds with a mortar and pestle, or in a spice grinder.

Step 2: In a medium bowl, whisk together ground seeds, flour, and salt. Set aside.

Step 3: In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat together butter and sugar on medium-high speed until well combined, 2 to 3 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating to combine after each addition and scraping down sides of bowl as needed, then beat in vanilla. Continue beating until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Reduce speed to low and beat in flour mixture until just combined.

Step 4: Transfer dough to a floured surface and knead gently. Divide dough in half. Shape each half into a 1-inch-thick disk, wrap in plastic, and refrigerate overnight.

Step 5: To make knots, measure 1 heaping tablespoon of dough; roll into a ball. Transfer to a floured surface; roll into a rope about 12 inches in length and 3/8 inch in diameter. Shape rope into a trefoil design on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Gently press dough at ends and at each intersection to adhere. Measure 1 scant tablespoon of dough; roll into a ball. Transfer to a floured surface; roll into a rope about 8 inches in length and 3/8 inch in diameter. Form into a circle about 3 inches in diameter, pinching ends to form a ring. Center ring on top of trefoil design and gently press to adhere. Repeat with remaining dough (4 to 6 cookies per sheet). Freeze until firm, 25 to 30 minutes.

Step 6: Bake, rotating sheets halfway through, until lightly golden brown on edges, 15 minutes. Let cool on sheets 5 minutes, then transfer cookies to a wire rack and let cool completely. Cookies can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature up to 1 week. Dust with confectioners' sugar just before serving, if desired.

peel the shell off.) The next part you see is the egg white. Next, pretend you cut the egg in half. Now what do you see? Right! You see the yellow yolk. The egg has three parts — the shell, the white, and the yolk — but only ONE egg. In the same way, the Father (Parent), Son (Child), and Holy Spirit are three persons but only ONE God! Mystery solved!



Let Us Pray: God, we thank you for being all-powerful and all-knowing and for loving us. We thank you for the things in life that we don't completely understand and for giving us the faith to believe them anyway. In the name of the Creator, Healer, and Comforter. Amen.

Understanding the Holy Trinity Activity

In 1 John 4:16 we learn that “God is Love.” This is more than just saying God is loving – although He certainly is! John is talking about something special about God’s nature itself. Inside the Trinity is an everlasting relationship of Love that flows between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is actually made of Love!

The Holy Trinity is a mystery that is beyond our ability to perfectly comprehend. No one metaphor or explanation can capture everything God is. The images we turn to and explanations always fall short. And that’s okay! It’s exciting and wonderful! God is bigger than all of us. Even if we have questions, we can still believe and trust God’s revelation through the Bible and in Jesus. One way of better understanding the Holy Trinity is through symbols. The Celtic Trinity Knot is one such symbol. In the Celtic Trinity Knot we can see three distinct loops in the design, each loop representing one person of the Holy Trinity: Parent, Child, Spirit.

The Trinity:

- One God: If you trace the Trinity knot loop pattern you will find that there’s no beginning or end. It’s all one connected line! This reminds us that God the Parent, God the Child, and God the Spirit are not three Gods but all the same God. The circle in the knot pattern also reminds us that God is ONE God and also THREE Persons. Tricky!
- Equal Persons: Now look at the loops in more detail. The loops are equal reminding us that each member of the Trinity is also equal and 100% God. Each loop is made of the same ‘material’ (a line or string) as each member of the Trinity is made up of the same ‘God material’.
- God is Love: What do think this ‘God material’ might be? Hint: Read about God in 1 John 4 and and 1 John 4:16.

Martha Stewart’s Celtic Knot Cookies

Sometimes called jumbles, these intricate Celtic Knot butter cookies date back to medieval times. They’re flavored with vanilla and two kinds of seeds—anise and caraway.



Photo Credit: Mike Krautter

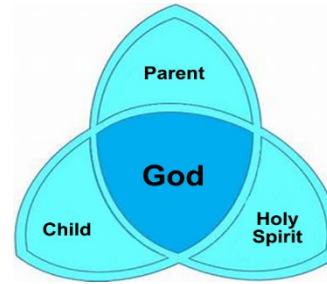
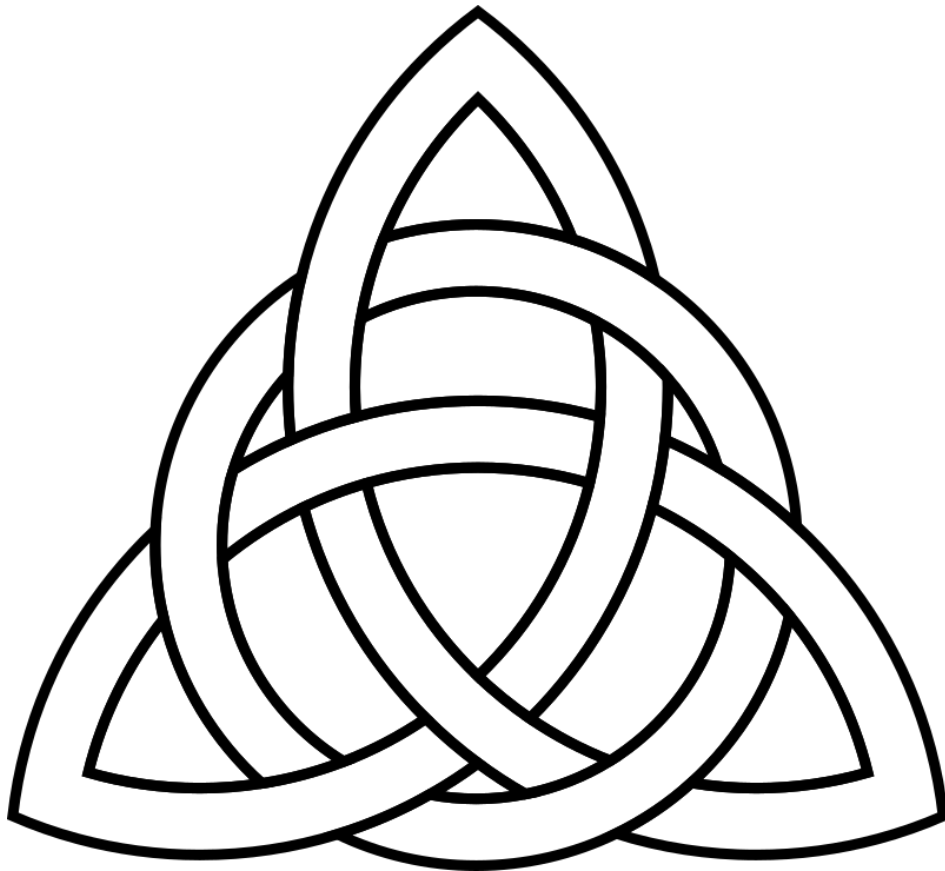
Ingredients:

- 2 teaspoons anise seeds
- 2 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 2 1/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 10 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- Confectioners' sugar, for serving (optional)

Trinity Knot Craft:

Label the 3 loops for each person of the Trinity (Parent, Child, Spirit) with a crayon. Then get creative and color or decorate it. Some other creative ideas:

- use a Q-tip to fill your trinity knot with a pattern of dots.
- use a white crayon to add your Trinity labels and see them 'revealed' by filling in the design with water color paints.



God is made of love!

Place your finger on the "Parent" loop and follow the line all the way to the "Child" loop in our Trinity knot and followed the line all the way to the top of the 'Son' loop.

"The Parent gives everything He/She has and all Her/His love to the Child."

Trace the line from the Child back to the Parent.

"The Child gives everything He/She has and all His/Her love to the Parent."

Trace the line from the Parent to the Holy Spirit.

"The Parent gives everything She/He has and all His/Her love to the Holy Spirit."

Trace the line from the Holy Spirit back to the Parent.

"The Holy Spirit gives everything She/He has and all Her/His love to the Parent."

The same is true from the Spirit to the Child and the Child to the Spirit. Trace the line between them showing the love flowing between them.

That's a lot of love! And it never stops! It keeps flowing between each of the Persons in the Trinity.