

A NOTE TO PARENTS

The idea of *holiness* is intimately tied up with what we celebrate on this day, Trinity Sunday. Whenever our worship calls on us to contemplate the Trinity, the Three-in-Oneness of God, it asks us to use the language of *holiness, blessedness, or glory*: “*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.*”

Most of us probably think of “the Trinity,” if we think of it at all, as an intellectual puzzle; we may balk at being asked to formulate the mystery of God’s Being in this way, or we may just mildly wonder what it is all supposed to be about. An answer often given is that this formula is our way of expressing our experience of God. We encounter God as our Maker, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer; as Father, Saviour, and Indwelling Spirit. This is true. But the concept of the Trinity as it is used in our worship serves rather to draw us into contemplation of *God’s experience of God*: the life of the Godhead in its own self-existing structure. The divine life itself is a life in relationship, a complex design like the structure of the atom, bound together by love. Our drawing near to that life in worship draws us, through adoration and mystery, ever more deeply into love.

We speak readily to children of God’s love, but often neglect the idea of God’s holiness through which the church has experienced that love. This may distort children’s own spirituality: they may come to expect that their sense of God should be easy and intimate, when in fact it may contain more of awe, wonder, longing and even fear. The Bible, Prayer Book and Hymnal offer a great richness of expression in approaching the mystery of God’s Being—far more than we customarily use ourselves or think of making available to children. Take some time with your children to explore your own experiences of God’s holiness, through drawings and through words, and make an effort to enlarge the vocabulary you use in family worship and in speaking to your children of the “*holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God.*”

© 1988 by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard. All rights reserved.
THE SUNDAY PAPER, 19 Colony Road, New Haven, CT 06511, USA
203 - 624-2520 • www.the-sunday-paper.com



THE SUNDAY PAPER JUNIOR

TRINITY
SUNDAY

“*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons,
Blessed Trinity!*”

HYMNAL 1982, #362



THIS IS TRINITY SUNDAY.

On Trinity Sunday, we think about who God is. We learn who God is from the Bible, and from church, and from praying to God and trying to obey him.



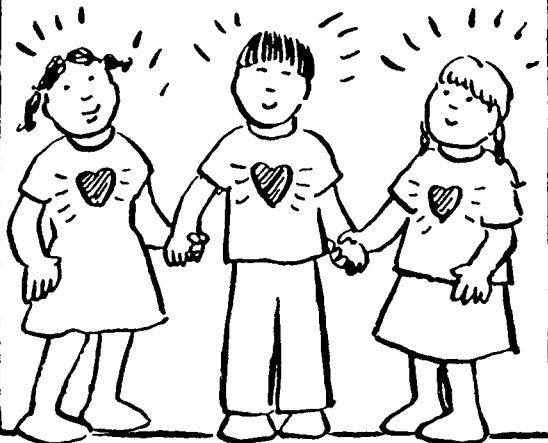
God made us and loves us. Jesus said we could call God our FATHER.



God came to live with us. That was Jesus. Jesus is God's SON.



God lives in our hearts, to fill us with love and help us do his work. That is God's SPIRIT.



We say God is HOLY. ("Holy" means "filled with wonderful, shining goodness.") And we say God is "three-in-one:" FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT.

That means God is not just one self, but three selves joined by love. God is HOLY; God is LOVE.

God's holiness can give us powerful feelings. It can make us want to kneel down, or sing, or dance, or shout, or hug someone, or cry...

Draw your idea of God's holiness. Draw yourself or your feelings as you think about God.