



—Andrei Rublev

## Practicing the Presence of God

*You are invited to light a candle as a sign that Jesus is present with you in Spirit.*

*Feel free to **print off the image on the last page** for you and your children to colour.*

*Please read the **bold print**.*

WELCOME\*

The creative love and presence of God,  
the redeeming grace and peace of Jesus Christ,  
the guiding truth and purpose of the Holy Spirit—  
all the blessings of the One who lives in Triune fellowship—  
and the flourishing goodness of all who live in communion  
with the Ruler and citizens of the kingdom of heaven  
abide with you all.

SINGING ~ *Trinity Song*

Holy Father, Son, and Spirit—  
Holy Communion, Three-in-One.

Come with your peace, with Your invitation.  
Bind us together in holy love.

—Sandra McCracken

GREETING PRAYER

*(adapted from a prayer from the Andhra Christian Theological College in Hyderabad, India)*

Give yourself to the presence of the Holy Three-in-One by praying the following words:

**Most wonderful God, forever beyond our grasp  
yet by love always within our reach, we approach you with confidence.  
Most wonderful Christ, forever ahead of us in wisdom and love  
yet by love always beside us, we approach you with eagerness.  
Most wonderful Spirit, forever larger than the whole universe  
yet by love living in our hearts, we approach you with delight and joy.  
From delusion to truth and into your righteous way: lead us, Father God.  
From darkness to light and into your gracious will: lead us, Saviour Christ.  
From death to immortality and into your joyful presence: lead us, powerful Spirit.  
Triune God, saviour and strength of us all: It is you we worship and adore.  
Enable our worship to rise far higher than our intellect  
and let our love to go much deeper than our feelings.  
To your praise and glory:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God to be ever loved, adored and served!  
Amen.**

SINGING ~ *Here We Are Gathered*

Here we are gathered together to worship You, Lord.  
Holy Spirit, lead us in one accord.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Father we bless you. We bless your holy name.  
Praise you for your Spirit. Guide us this day.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Jesus, we love You; we love You so.  
Thank You for salvation. Cause our love to grow.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

—Glenn Kaiser, from the  
*Album All My Days*  
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WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE ~ Colossians 1:13-22 (*read by Andrea Janzen*)

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son God loves so much, the Son who forgives us and sets us free from the sins we were doomed to keep repeating.

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: everything in heaven and on earth, everything visible and invisible, including all forces and powers and rulers and authorities; *everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

The Son is the very beginning; he is the first to be resurrected from death; and he alone is supreme in the end. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to bring back to God all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe, properly fixing and fitting them together through the blood shed on the cross.

You yourselves are a case study. Once you were alienated from God, hostile in mind, doing evil deeds. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually *dying* for you, God made peace with you. Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence.

*Word of God. Word of Life.*

SINGING ~ *Gloria*

*(The Gloria in Excelsis is an ancient Christian hymn that has been sung since at least the 3rd century.)*

Glory to God in the highest  
And peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly king,  
Almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
We praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world.  
Have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father.  
Receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One.  
You alone are the Lord.  
You alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

—*Liturgical Folk*

CONFESSION *(A traditional prayer from the Eastern Orthodox Church)*

We are invited to dwell in the presence of the Holy Three-in-One. Please do so by confess your fears, your faults, your infidelities to the Creator, Redeemer and Advocate who look to make all things new by praying the following words:

**Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,  
who art everywhere present and fillest all things,  
Treasury of good things, and Giver of life:  
come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every sin,  
and save our souls, O Good One!  
Holy God, holy Mighty, holy Immortal, have mercy on us.**

*Listening Silence*

OFFERINGS OF RECONCILIATION *(based on John 20:21-22)*

Jesus breathed these words on his friends and followers:  
“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit.”  
Go forth refreshed and renewed:  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

SINGING ~ *Praise the Father*

Praise the Father, praise the Son,  
Praise the Spirit, Three in One  
Who was and is and is to come.  
All praise and honour and glory and power,  
O, praise his name forever!

Who is the One to whom you belong?  
Who in your weakness has made you strong?  
Who fills your heart with joyful song?  
It is the Lord, your God.

Who is the one whom with you will be  
From highest mountain to darkest valley?  
Who is the one whom in you dwells?  
It is the Lord, your God.

—Steve Bell

PRAYING OUR STORY

*(comments are adapted from Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons by Henri Nouwen)*

You are encouraged to place yourself  
as well as your laughter and laments, praises and problems,  
in the Presence of the Holy Three in One.

Feel free to spend some time gazing at the icon which appears  
on the first page of this liturgy.

You may wish to use the following encircling prayer to make your offerings.

*God enfolding* \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Christ before* \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Spirit within* \_\_\_\_\_.

As you offer things up to God,  
you may wish draw a circle around yourself  
in your imagination or with your index finger.



When ready, leave all that's been said or gone unspoken with God by singing the following:

SINGING ~ *Even So, Lord Jesus, Come*

Even so, Lord Jesus, come.  
Oh, divine and glorious Son!  
Though we live as Your body here on earth,  
Even so, Lord Jesus, come.

Gracious Father, Sovereign Lord,  
Your creation's One adored,  
By Your hand we receive Your majesty;  
Even so, Lord Jesus, come.

Holy Spirit, breath of life,  
Light a path through darkest night.  
In Your care we confess our deepest sigh:  
Even so, Lord Jesus, come.

—*Steve Bell*

BLESSING (*adapted from Acts 17:28 and the prayer of St. Fursa*)

Go in the knowledge that you live and move and have your being  
in the eternal presence of the Holy Three in One.  
And may the hand of God rest upon you,  
the footsteps of Jesus guide you,  
the wisdom of the Spirit empower you,  
the company of heaven be your joy,  
and the peace of your neighbour be your work,  
so that  
God's kingdom makes its home complete in you,  
and all may belong completely at home in God.  
Amen.

SINGING ~ *The Lorica*

I bind unto myself today  
The gift to call on the Trinity,  
The saving faith where I can say:  
Come Three-in-One, oh, One-in-Three.

Be above me, as high as the noonday sun;  
Be below me, the rock I set my feet upon;  
Be beside me, the wind on my left and right;  
Be behind me, oh, circle me with Your truth and light.

I bind unto myself today  
The love of angels and seraphim,  
The prayers and prophecies of saints,  
The words and deeds of righteous men.

God's ear to hear me,  
God's hand to guide me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's shield to hide me,  
Against all powers deceiving,  
Against my own unbelieving,  
Whether near or far.

I bind unto myself today  
The hope to rise from the dust of earth,  
The songs of nature giving praise  
To Father, Spirit, Living Word.

—*Steve Bell / Gayle Salmond*



