

Neal Plantinga  
Calvin College

Symposium on Worship  
Workshop B 16: What Makes Christian Worship Trinitarian?  
Outline

Sing # 538 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

Trinitarian baptism . . . 2 Cor. 13 greeting . . . sing "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Old Celtic invocation: I am bending my knee in the eye of the Father who created me, in the eye of the Son, who purchased me, in the eye of the Spirit, who cleansed me.

The 1994 "Book of Common Order" of the Church of Scotland, a prayer of confession: Count us not as nothing, O God. Count us not as nothing, O Christ. Count us not as nothing, O kind Spirit, nor abandon us to eternal loss.

References to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit may be received with either indifference or annoyance.

Feminine images in Herman Stuempfle Jr., "Praise the God of all beginnings/birthing primal space and time." Harris J. Loewen's hymn titled, "O God, Great Womb."

In John 17: 'I ask not only on behalf of [the disciples], but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup>that they may all be **one**. As you, Father, are **in me** and **I am in you**, may **they also be in us**, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given them, **so that they may be one, as we are one**, <sup>23</sup>**I in them and you in me**, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.'

In, in, in, one, one, one. A doctrine of the persons' *perichoresis* (Lat. *circumincessio*), or **interpenetration**. Each person envelops the other two: divine **hospitality**. Jesus as mediator in spreading hospitality to creation.

Implications for worship: Prayers into a divine life full of intercession and lament. J. Todd Billings, *Rejoicing in Lament*. Angels, archangels, saints, martyrs.

Keeping Trinitarian persons straight. Celtic blessing: May the everlasting God shield you east and west and wherever you go. And the blessing of God be upon us, the blessing of the God of life. The blessing of Christ be upon us, the blessing of the Christ of love. The blessing of the Spirit be upon us, the blessing of the Spirit of grace. The blessing of the Trinity be upon us, now and forevermore.

Diane Strickland in *Reformed Worship*: simply name the Holy Trinity at least once each service. Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. Benediction for Dallas Willards flunk-outs<sup>1</sup> Baptism and dedication of babies in the threefold name: you are not just your parents' child. You belong to the family of God. We will provide you with plenty of centripetal force to keep you near the center of it. Injustice as a *desecration of the sacraments* (Richard Mouw).

Hospitality in worship: worship songs and hymns that come from all over the world.

Worship inclusive for persons with disabilities.

Truly intergenerational worship.

How is Christian worship Trinitarian? By regular use of Trinitarian greetings. By baptizing in the threefold name. By use of the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving at the Lord's Supper. By regular invocation of the threefold name. But especially by mirroring the *perichoresis* in the heart of God, the triune hospitality.

Sing #833 "There is a Redeemer."

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<sup>1</sup> Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*, 123-24.

# 538 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

*Descant*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 D Bm A D G D

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!  
 A D Bm A ho E7 A

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!  
 D Bm A D G D

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y,  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y,

Words: Reginald Heber, 1827, alt., P.D.  
 Music (NICAEA 11.12.10): John B. Dykes, 1861; desc. David McK. Williams (1887-1978), P.D.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 Bm D G D7 G A7 D

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 who wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics underneath. The middle staff is the guitar accompaniment, showing chords: Bm, D, G, D7, G, A7, D. The bottom staff is the bass line, providing harmonic support. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

833

## There Is a Redeemer

D G/D D A D G A D Asus A

1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son;  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,  
3 When I stand in glo - ry I will see his face;

D G D Em7 Asus A7 D

pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.  
there I'll serve my King for - ev - er, in that ho - ly place.

Refrain D G D G A D A7

Thank you O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son, and

D G/D D G Asus A7 D

leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Words and Music (THERE IS A REDEEMER 6.5.8.3 refrain 6.6.7.6): Melody Green (b. 1946) © 1982 Birdwing Music (ASCAP)/BMG Songs (ASCAP)/Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com

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