

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF COLORADO PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP

# ***RADICALIZING THE NICENE CREED IN ITS 1700<sup>TH</sup> YEAR***

SESSION 1: OCTOBER 4, 2025, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

PRESENTER: PHIL HARROLD, ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OURAY



# INTRODUCTION

- **OUR CONTEXT:** INCREASING POLITICAL ACTIVISM + ATTENTION TO THE RESOURCES OF OUR FAITH
- **OUR BELIEVING:** *CREDARE* AS INNER DIRECTION AND DYNAMIC RE. “THAT FOR WHICH WE GIVE OUR HEART”
- **OUR TASK:** PUT THE CREED TO WORK, FOR LIFE’S SAKE, LOVE’S SAKE, AND THE WORLD’S SAKE

*PAUSE AND REFLECT*



# ***WE BELIEVE FOR LIFE'S SAKE***

WHAT THE NICENE CREED SAYS ABOUT LIFE:

- **“WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, THE FATHER, THE ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, OF ALL THAT IS, SEEN AND UNSEEN.”**
- **“WE BELIEVE IN ONE LORD, JESUS CHRIST . . . THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE.”**
- **“WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD, THE GIVER OF LIFE.”**



# ***GOD IS ALL ABOUT LIFE!***

CREATOR-FATHER GOD  
MAKES LIFE THROUGH THE  
SON OF GOD, AND IT ALL  
BECOMES GIFT BY THE HOLY  
SPIRIT OF GOD. THE STORY  
OF GOD IS THE STORY OF  
LIFE ITSELF.





***THE STORY OF THE CREED IS BOTH FAR-REACHING AND DEEPLY PERSONAL.***

**(CELEBRANT:) “BLESSED BE GOD: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT”**

**(OUR RESPONSE:): “AND BLESSED BE HIS KINGDOM, NOW AND FOR EVER. AMEN.”**

***PAUSE AND REFLECT***

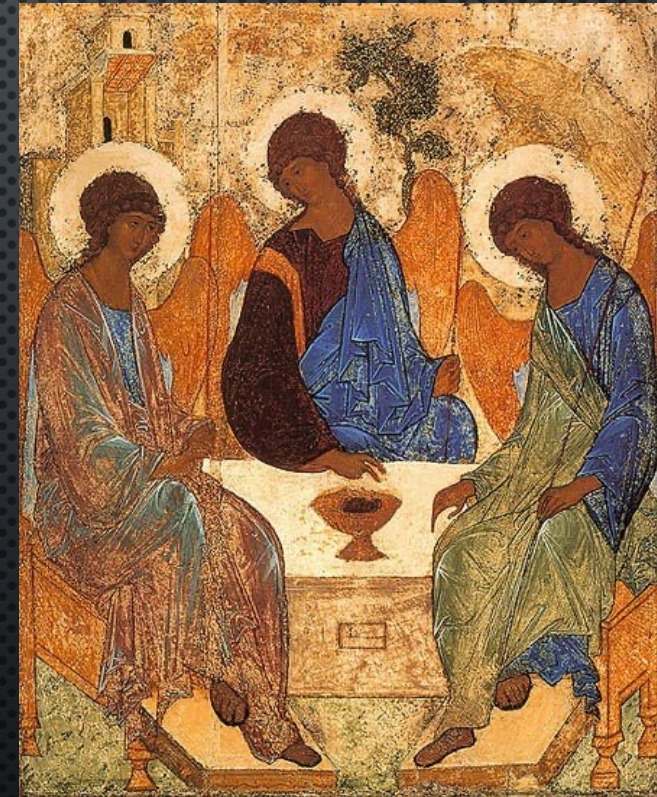


## ***WE BELIEVE FOR LOVE'S SAKE***

***“FOR US AND FOR OUR SALVATION HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HE BECAME INCARNATE,”*** ULTIMATELY ***“FOR OUR SAKE”*** THROUGH HIS CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION.



A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CREED SHOWS THAT THE  
DIVINE PERSONS ARE ACTING *IN COMMUNION*,  
**THIS COMMUNION IS NOT AN  
EXCLUSIVE POSSESSION OF  
THE THREE DIVINE PERSONS,  
BUT THE OVERFLOWING,  
INCARNATING, IN-THE-FLESH,  
IN-THE-NEIGHBORHOOD  
SORT OF LOVE WE SEE IN  
JESUS.**

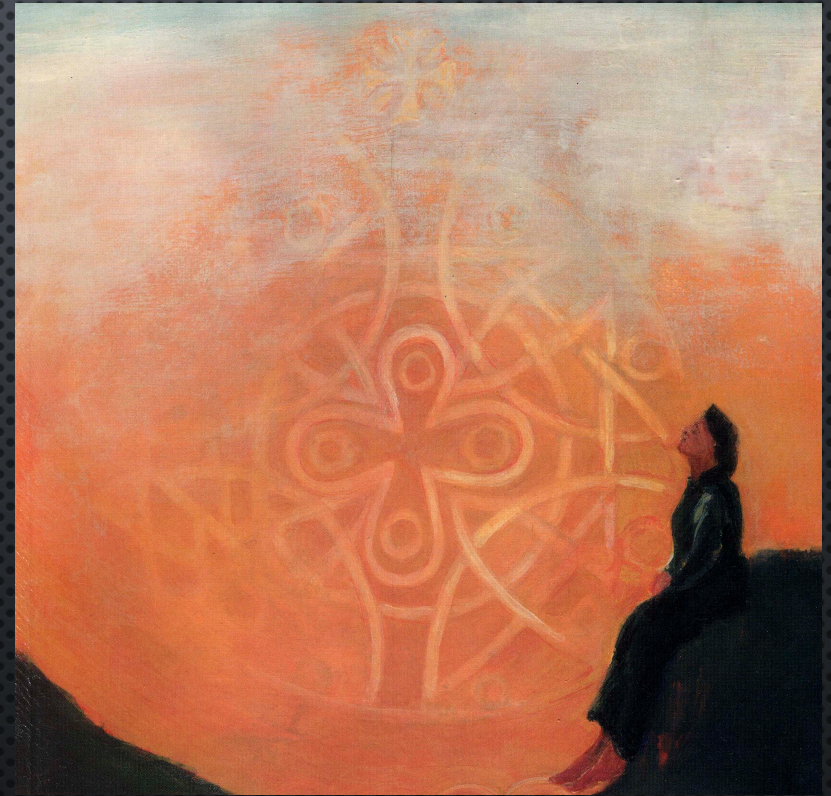




THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST  
DEMONSTRATES THE OVERFLOWING LOVE OF THE  
TRIUNE GOD FOR US.

PRAYER BOOK'S EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B:  
**“WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O  
GOD, FOR THE GOODNESS AND  
LOVE WHICH YOU HAVE MADE  
KNOWN TO US... ABOVE ALL IN THE  
WORD MADE FLESH, JESUS, YOUR  
SON...”**

*PAUSE AND REFLECT*





# ***WE BELIEVE FOR THE* WORLD'S *SAKE***

**GOD'S LOVING COMMUNION, ACCORDING TO THE  
"INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT," OVERFLOWS INTO  
MISSION IN THE WIDER WORLD.**

**... AS EXPRESSED IN RITE II'S POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:  
"SEND US NOW INTO THE WORLD IN PEACE, AND GRANT US  
STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO LOVE AND SERVE YOU WITH  
GLADNESS AND SINGLENESS OF HEART; THROUGH CHRIST  
OUR LORD."**



THE 'WE' IN GOD'S MISSION TO THE WORLD IS  
CONSTITUTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE "ONE  
HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH"

**THIS SHOWS US HOW MISSION  
UNIFIES AND SPIRITS US INTO A  
UNIVERSAL BODY OF BELIEVERS  
BEARING FORTH THE APOSTOLIC  
GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST.**





HERE WE DISCOVER NEW  
PATHWAYS OF JUSTICE AND  
MERCY. WHEN WE SAY WE  
BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, WE  
ENVISION NEW POSSIBILITIES  
FOR SOLIDARITY AS WE JOIN  
OTHERS IN PROCLAIMING IN  
WORD AND DEED THE  
MISSION OF GOD.





THE NICENE CREED,  
ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT  
OF HEART-FELT WORSHIP,  
FIRES OUR IMAGINATIONS  
AND SETS OUR LIVES  
AND LOVES IN MOTION  
FOR GOSPEL-SHAPED MISSION  
TO THE WORLD.

***THAT'S RADICAL!***