

*We believe..*

**GOD IS TRIUNE**

**(RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT REMAINDER)**

**29 MAY 2022**

**CHRISTIES BEACH BAPTIST CHURCH**

**DR STEPHEN SPENCE**

*in the beginning*

**God**



**Created the heavens and the earth**

**All things**

**Everything from A to Z:**

**Space and Time**

**Material and Spiritual**

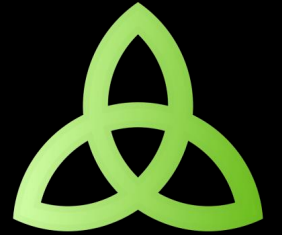
**Matter and What Matters**

*in the beginning*

**God**

**no where  
not spirit**

**no when  
not something**



**Created before space and time**

**All things**

**the unknowable God must self-reveal**

**the God who Acts**

**the God who Speaks**

**the God who Engages**

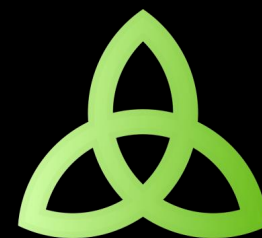
# *God reveals God's-self*

**One God**

**Father**

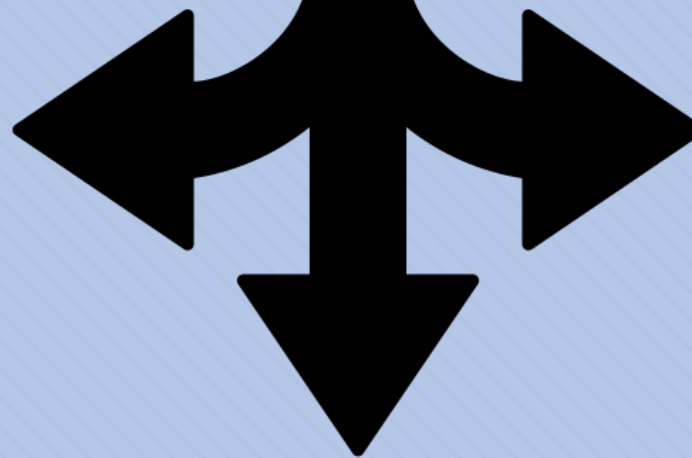
**Son**

**Spirit**



**Created**

**All things**



# *We believe*

CBBC

**We believe in one God**, the **Father**, the Almighty...

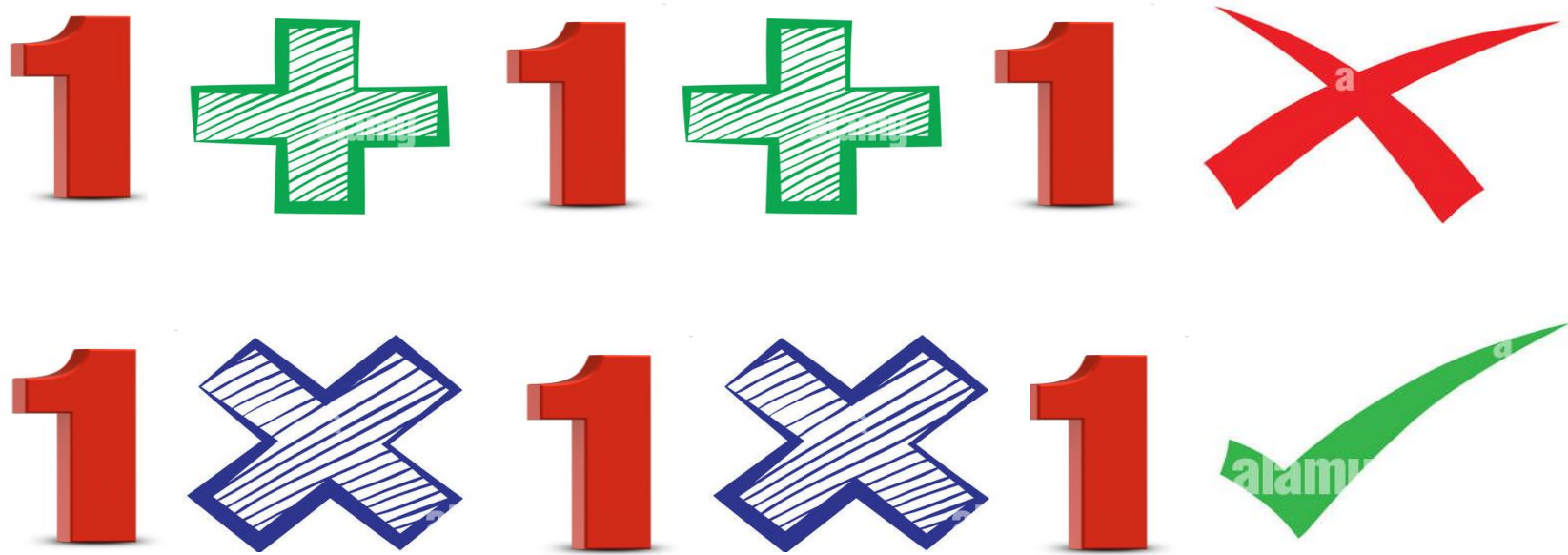
We believe in one Lord, **Jesus Christ**, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, light from light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father...

We believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the Lord, the giver of life...with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified...

We believe...

*We believe...One God, three persons*

# the Triune God



It all depends on how we understand the **relationship**  
between Father, Son, and Spirit

# the Triune God

**The Image of the One is Many**  
**Genesis 1:26**

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**The Many become One**  
**Genesis 2:24**

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Relationship defines Personhood

# The Triune God

God is Love



Created

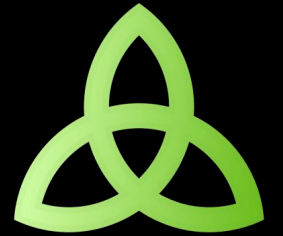
1. Love is giving AND receiving
2. Love is essential and first in the story
3. **Persons are open without reserve, embracing the other**
4. Persons are NOT individuals who may choose to love



# The TRINITY

God

*perichoresis*



The Father, Son, and Spirit are  
eternally embracing in love and  
being embraced in love

God is relationship without remainder

**C major Chord**



# *God reveals God's-self as Triune*

**One God**

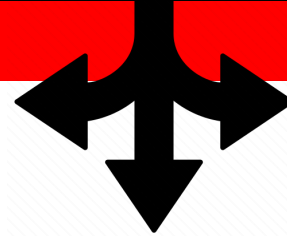
**Father**

**Son**

**Spirit**

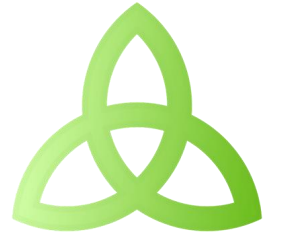


**Created**



God is ONE eternally inseparable relationship of love,  
consisting of THREE eternally distinct persons  
who embrace and are embraced by each other.  
*God is relationship without remainder. God is love.*

# the Triune God



more than an individual who chooses to love, God is love

1

**We are immersed in LOVE**

Love is more fundamental to existence than SPACE and TIME

2

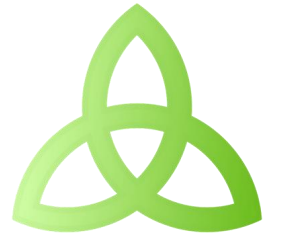
**God defines personhood**

as relational (giving and receiving), social, communal

3

**Salvation** is about entering into the generous embracing life of the Triune God.

# the Triune God



**more than an individual who chooses to love, God is love**

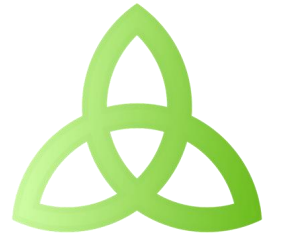
Love (relationship) is fundamental to reality. We are immersed in **eternal LOVE** in the same way that we are immersed by **created SPACE and TIME**

1

- If I was a single dot... If I was a 1D line...
- If I was a 2D square... If I was a 3D cube...
- If I was a 4D tesseract...

Relationship is the ultimate dimension, embracing all reality.  
(OMNIPRESENT is not about space it is about relationship)

# the Triune God



**more than an individual who chooses to love, God is love**

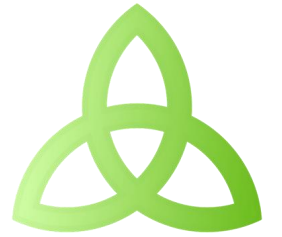
God defines personhood as relational, social, communal, openness to others

2

- Alzheimer's – a person does not hold their own self, our selfhood is collectively held by those who love us
- Our true self is held in relationship to God and others
- We find our true self in service to others



# the Triune God



more than an individual who chooses to love, God is love

Salvation is not “getting pardoned,” salvation is **Theosis**

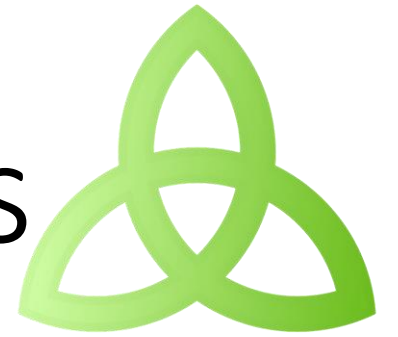
- Entering into the divine dance of love given and received
- A Relationship that begins in the ETERNAL NOW

3

**1 John 4:7-12**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love... Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

from the beginning  
God reveals God's-self to us



**The study of God is wide and deep, but it is not a mystery** – God has revealed something of God's story in his encounter with Israel, with the church, and supremely in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

*We believe..* the One God is Love and exists in an open, mutually embracing, perichoretic relationship that is Love – relationship without remainder. God is encountered as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and we are invited to participate in that life of love.