

How Wonderful the Three-in-One

Brian Wren
LM

Trad. arr. Hal H. Hopson
PROSPECT

How wonderful the Three-in-One,
whose energies of dancing light
are undivided, pure and good,
communing love in shared delight.

Before the flow of dawn and dark,
Creation's Lover dreamed of earth,
and with a caring deep and wise,
all things conceived and brought to birth.

The Lover's own Belov'd, in time,
between a cradle and a cross,
at home in flesh, gave love and life
to heal our brokenness and loss.

Their Equal Friend all life sustains
with greening power and loving care,
and calls us, born again by grace,
in Love's communing life to share.

How wonderful the Living God:
Divine Beloved, Empow'ring Friend,
Eternal Lover, Three-in-One,
our hope's beginning, way and end.

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February 1988, developing a metaphor used by St. Augustine, who suggested that the Trinity can be understood in terms of One who Loves, One who is loved, and the bond of love between them. Augustine's metaphor allows us to draw on a variety of human love-relationships to glimpse the mystery of God, and is here strengthened by describing the Spirit in personal terms ('Equal Friend), not simply as an sub-personal 'bond.' Hal Hopson's arrangement of PROSPECT was composed at my request, prompted by James Vyanek's beautiful choral setting of this text and tune ("How Wonderful the Three-In-One," SATB, Cong., Organ, Handbells, Other Instruments - GIA Publications, Chicago).