

## Three Special Visitors

Now God often spoke to Abraham about how the children of his children would rule this land, but Abraham and Sarah had no children. They were both old, and they were very sad because they thought they never would have any children.

One hot summer day Abraham was sitting in the shade of an oak tree at the entrance to his tent. Suddenly he looked up and saw Three Strangers standing before him. Abraham knew at once that God Himself had come to visit him. He ran out to meet the strangers, bowed to the ground, and said: "I beg you, rest awhile in the shade. I shall bring some cool water to bathe your feet and some food for you to eat." While the visitors rested, Abraham ran into his tent and asked Sarah to bake some cakes. He then hurried to the servant quarters to have them cook some tender meat. When the butter, milk, and all the other food - the best he had - had been prepared, he himself served it to the Visitors. While they were eating, Abraham stood under a tree.

Then the Visitors asked: "Where is your wife Sarah?" Abraham replied: "There she is, in the tent." The Visitors said: "We shall return to you within a year, and by that time Sarah will have a son." Now Sarah and Abraham were very old, and when Sarah heard these words, she laughed quietly because she did not believe that she would have a son. Less than a year following the visit of the Three Visitors a son was born to Sarah. Abraham called him Isaac, which means "laughter."

In our churches we sometimes see an icon which shows the visit of the three Strangers. It reminds us that God is the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.