

# Rooted in God's Earth: Trees in Scripture



## **SESSION 3**

**Abraham and Sarah at  
the Oak of Mamre  
(Genesis 18.1-15)**

**Monday 8 July 2024**





*God of creation, we thank you that we are rooted in your earth together. Help us to recognise and rejoice in the interconnectedness of all that has lived and all that will live. In our encounters with scripture, help us to listen for what your Spirit is saying, and inspire us with your love. Amen.*





Andrei Rublev, The Trinity (The Hospitality of Abraham), 15<sup>th</sup> century  
Anon, The Oak of Mamre (Abraham's Oak), Hebron, c.1870 (V&A)



The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.<sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.<sup>3</sup> He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant.<sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.<sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant."

So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent."<sup>10</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.<sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.<sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?"

The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."





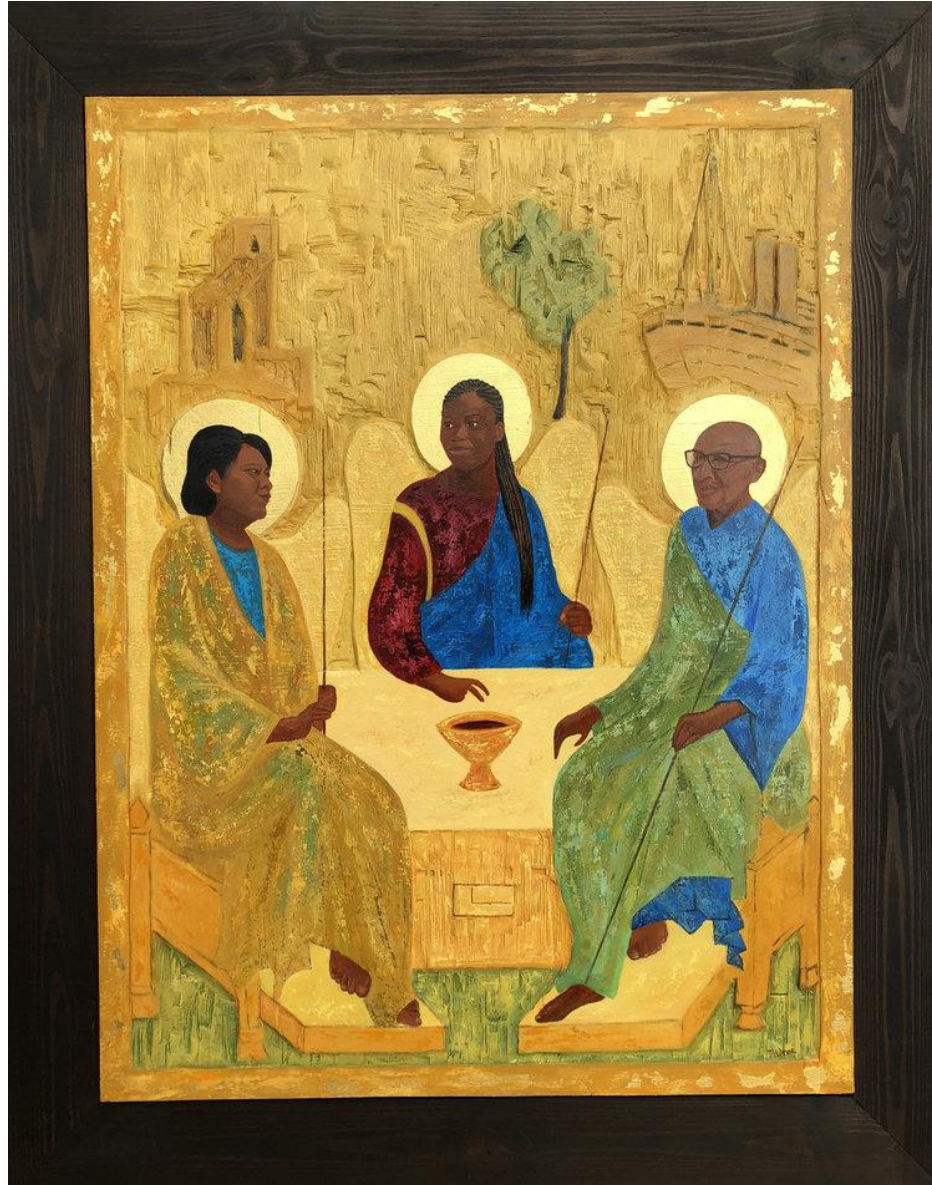
Anon. British, The Life of Abraham Tapestry, 17<sup>th</sup> century (Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY)





Mac Chagall, Abraham and the Three Angels, 1960-66  
(Marc Chagall Museum, Nice)





Meg Wroe, The Trinity (After Rublev), 2019





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