From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the Incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole.”

Laudato Si’ #99

I love the season of Advent! Even as a little girl I was caught up in the awe and wonder of this season – the lights, department store window displays, TV specials, the anticipation of Santa, and of course, putting up the manger scene – all revealing something of God. I can also remember my fair share of Christmases both in childhood and as an adult when I went to bed on December 25 feeling a tinge of sadness that Christmas was all over. Now, in my wisdom years I know this isn’t so.

In recent decades it has been scientists and theologians who have opened my eyes to an ever expanding and deepening meaning of the incarnation: The feast of God becoming one of us that we celebrate on Christmas Day and that we prepare for during Advent. In this edition of the JPIC News I’d like to share with you the wisdom of some of these theologians who have introduced us to the concept of “deep incarnation”: that God made God’s Self known from the very beginning of the cosmos and continues to make God’s Self known in our day revealing incarnation as an on-going reality in which we all participate. This evolving theological worldview is one that has the capacity to stir our souls so that with God we can birth into being an Earth community marked by compassion, healing and liberating Love in the spirit of Bon Secours.

Advent – Week 1:
God’s First Incarnation: The Creation of the Universe
13.7 billion years ago

“God’s first “idea” was to become manifest – to pour out divine, infinite love into finite visible forms. The “First Flaring Forth” (Big Bang) is now our scientific name for that first idea; and “Christ” is our theological name. Both are about LOVE and BEAUTY exploding outward in all directions.”

Rev. Richard Rohr, OFM

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

Reflection

Each night this week look at the night sky or look at the Webb telescope images until you are hushed with awe. Consider that you are not just looking at stars but at God’s divine, infinite and compassionate love poured out 13.7 billion years ago… God’s first revelation of who God is.

What does this experience evoke in you? Does is give you/deepen in you a new perspective of who God is and who you are?

May the Christ light shine in you.
Reflection

Jesus’ life embodied what God’s love intends for the world: for it to be transformed, healed and made whole. For Jesus everyone mattered, especially those who were poor, oppressed or marginalized. Incarnation invites us into a radically different relationship with the world, a relationship where everything and everyone matters.

We pray to “fall in love once again with the Great Mystery of Divine Incarnation so deep and long—to take on our bodied lives as God’s very own, and finally, see each day as opportunity to bear Christ ever newly.”  John Kavanaugh, SJ

Notice how you “bear Christ ever newly” this week.

One Person of the Trinity entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si’

Reflection

Advent – Week 2:
God Revealing God’s Self through Earth
4.5 billion years ago

“...This vast ocean of our solar system is like a womb, that has unfolded over some five billion years to become galaxies and stars, palms and pelicans, the music of Bach and each of us alive today.”

Brian Swimme

Give us the grace to feel profoundly connected to everything that is.

Pope Francis Laudato Si’

Reflection

Advent Practice: Repeat this mantra frequently throughout each day: “I am one with all that is.”

Advent – Week 3:
God’s 2nd Incarnation:
Jesus of Nazareth
2,200 years ago

Christ and Jesus are not exactly the same. In Jesus, God’s presence became more obvious and believable in the world. “By his incarnation (the CHRIST) inserted himself not just into our humanity, but into the universe which supports humanity. The presence of the incarnate word . . . shines at the heart of all things.”

Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.

Reflection

Advent Practice: Repeat this mantra daily.

I am meant to be the second coming of Christ. We, humanity, are meant to be the second coming of Christ.

Notice what happens within you as you breathe in and breathe out the words of the mantra.

Experience Christmas, 2022 as a kiss of God impelling you to create a new world in 2023.

We are born to be bright stars in this cosmic life – radiating love, beauty, goodness, unity and truth – the glory of God is to shine out in our lives.

Ilia Delio, OSF

Reflection

Advent – Week 4:
God Living and Acting in ME
Beginning ____ years ago

All of us are meant to be “the second coming of Christ,” but how can we recognize or honor this without recognizing both the first (creation) and the second (Jesus) Incarnations?

Richard Rohr, OFM

“We have the power to create a new world, and we have the power to destroy this one. How we choose depends on how we grasp this moment as the kiss of God, impelling us to stand up and speak.”

Ilia Delio, OSF

We are born to be bright stars in this cosmic life – radiating love, beauty, goodness, unity and truth – the glory of God is to shine out in our lives.

Ilia Delio, OSF

Reflection

International Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee
Sr. Teresa Margot Benítes Montero, CBS
Sr. Rosa Elena Lozada Escobar, CBS
Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ - Chair
Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS
Rachel Moccia
Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS - Co-chair
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