



Center for
Spiritual
Development

Daily Reflections

NEW YEAR'S EVE

By Sr. Katherine "Kit" Gray, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

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

He was in the beginning with God.

*All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.*

*What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.*

A man named John was sent from God.

*He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.*

*He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light.*

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

*He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.
But to those who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation
nor by human choice nor by a man's decision
but of God.
And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only begotten Son,
full of grace and truth.*

JOHN 1:1-14

Reflection

Logos—Greek for “word,” variously translated as explanation, reason, statement, or discourse; used by the Stoics to mean the principle and pattern that gave the world its character and coherence. Similar to the Hebrew “dabar,” usually translated as God speaking; think of Genesis, “Then God said, “Let there be light and there was light.” (Gen 1: 3). In the context of John’s Gospel, Jesus, who preached the word of God (Mark 2:2), is the Word, present and active “in the beginning” and is the Word, creatively revealing God present and active in the here and now.

Light—Light is the first thing created by God in Genesis. The dictionary says light is “the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible.” Light reveals, light brightens, light clarifies, light warms.

Life—is defined as the condition that distinguishes animals and plants from inorganic matter, including the capacity for growth, reproduction, functional activity, and continual change preceding death. Life is active, adaptive, responsive, unfolding.

Became flesh—the Incarnation—Jesus, God, the Second Person of the Trinity, becoming human (**see the reflection for December 30**). Pope Francis said, “Jesus didn’t save us with an idea. He humbled himself and

became a man. The Word became flesh.” (Morning Meditation, June 2013)

Glory—the most important Hebrew word for glory, “kabod” means “weight” or “importance.” Applied to humans, it means their significance in the world. Applied to God, it means God’s visible manifestation to humans, often as a cloud or fire. In the Christian Scripture, glory is applied to Jesus; think about the narrative about the transfiguration— “a bright cloud cast a shadow over them and from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Beloved Son.”” (Matthew 17:5) John’s Gospel identifies Jesus with God’s glory, God’s presence with us.



For Pondering

Read the Scripture passage again, aware of the words that resonate with you.

For Prayer

*Now God says to us
What He has already said to the earth as a whole*

*Through His grace-filled birth:
I am there. I am with you.
I am your life. I am your time.
I am the gloom of your daily routine. Why will you not hear it?
I weep your tears - pour yours out to me.
I am your joy.
Do not be afraid to be happy; ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living.
That is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who have no
hope.
I am the blind alley of all your paths,
For when you no longer know how to go any farther,
Then you have reached me,
Though you are not aware of it.
I am in your anxiety, for I have shared it.
I am in the prison of your finiteness,
For my love has made me your prisoner.
I am in your death,
For today I began to die with you, because I was born,
And I have not let myself be spared any real part of this experience.
I am present in your needs;
I have suffered them and they are now transformed.
I am there.
I no longer go away from this world.
Even if you do not see me now, I am there.
My love is unconquerable.
I am there.
It is Christmas.
Light the candles! They have more right to exist than all the darkness.
It is Christmas.
Christmas that lasts forever.*

KARL RAHNER, SJ, "THE ETERNAL YEAR"

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