

## **SERMON: Sunday – 26 December 2021 – Rev Alistair Cowper**

### **The Gift of Oneness**

Hebrews 1:1-12 - JS

John 1:1-14

What gifts did you receive this year? Examples ....

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling, her dwelling, its dwelling place, among us.

Here's what that means - Christ is forever being born in the human soul and into history.

And we are called to awaken to what's already in our midst.

Richard Rohr - "What (Christmas) tells us is that reality, at its deepest foundation, is good, even "very good." The divine is hidden quietly inside the human. The holy is hidden in the physical and the material. Therefore, we have every reason to live in hope and trust and confidence".

On Christmas Eve I spoke about the birth of Christ in us being the thing that matters more than anything else. And that birthing requires our consent, our willingness to let go, to surrender, even to suffer, because suffering makes room in the soul for God, for Christ to enter and abide and become all, and connect us in that union of the human and the divine, healing the separation between God and all creation.

That is what Jesus is all about. That's the joy of Christmas. That's the beauty and good news of the Incarnation. God and flesh have become One and all Creation is drawn into that Oneness.

God is so concerned about processing this union between God and Creation that God sent himself, a Son, a Palestinian Baby, in human flesh to bring the two into one. To unite God and creation, Spirit and matter.

The Word, the Eternal Word of God, leapt down, and took its abiding place on Earth, in order to heal every bit of separation that we experience.

As Rohr says, "separation is the sadness of the human race. When we feel separate, when we feel disconnected, when we feel split from our self, from our family, from reality, from the Earth, from God, we will be angry and depressed people. Because we know we weren't created for that

separateness; we were created for union”.

Christmas is about union. God with us means God within us;

God is Light within all of Creation and that Light brings love and life to all humankind. It makes alive, all living things.

Now there's a Gift worth unwrapping, to be enjoyed and shared forever.

[Howard Thurman's suggestions for the last week of the year:

- Be reconciled to someone else
- Give the gift of grace to someone]

Happy Christmas everyone.