

Incarnation and Redemption – A Natural Connection

Rev. Patrick Stephens

Fifth Week of Lent

Monday April 4

Scripture

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth

Reflection

Incarnation is a theological concept that sees the full presence of God revealed “in the flesh” through Jesus Christ. While the mystery of God's incarnation is an important theme for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the impact extends much farther.

Incarnation is important, not only to the story of Jesus' earthly ministry, but to the ongoing relationship between the Creator and creation. When God is revealed to us through Jesus, God takes on the fullness of the human experience. In Christ, the Creator is not only connected to creation, but the Creator becomes part of creation itself!

The relationship between creature and Creator is forever affected by the experience of God as human. As our world, our humanity receives the Creator in the person of Jesus, our entire world becomes forever marked as holy and can never be separated from our understanding of God.

As a people of the incarnation, we celebrate the fullness of God's presence, revealed in our world. As creatures of God, we recognize that the Creator is to be encountered in the holiness of creation itself. For us, care for the world in which we live is a godly pursuit. Indeed, it is our worship and our work.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, make me worthy to understand the profound mystery of your holy incarnation, which you have worked for our sake and for our salvation. Truly there is nothing so great and wonderful as this, that you, my God, who are the creator of all things, should become a creature, so that we should become like God. You have humbled yourself and made yourself small that we might be made mighty. You have taken the form of a servant, so that you might confer upon us a royal and divine beauty. You, who are beyond our understanding, have made yourself understandable to us in Jesus Christ. You, who are the uncreated God, have made yourself a creature for us. You, who are the untouchable One, have made yourself touchable to us. You, who are most high, make us capable of understanding your amazing love and the wonderful things you have done for us. Make us able to understand the mystery of your incarnation, the mystery of your life, example, and doctrine, the mystery

of your cross and passion, the mystery of your resurrection and ascension. Blessed are you, O Lord, for coming to earth as a man. Amen.

Angela of Foligno, thirteenth centur

Nurse Latia has strong teeth

Delivering an average of 198 babies a month at a birthing clinic in rural Mozambique, she often held her cell phone between her teeth so it would cast a light on her patient. Babies are more often born at night and her clinic – like many – was not equipped with electricity for proper lighting. As part of the All Mothers and Children Count project, PWRDF and its Mozambican partner EHALE installed 30 solar suitcases at government-run health facilities in 2017. A solar suitcase is a bright yellow, hard plastic, water-proof suitcase that is mounted on the wall of a clinic and wired to a solar panel on the roof. The suitcase is equipped with four lamps, one head lamp, a Doppler, and a lithium battery that lasts five years. The suitcase can also charge cell-phones and other electronic devices such as laptop computers. We Care Solar provided the solar suitcases and trained four EHALE staff and eight staff from the Ministry of Health electronic maintenance department in Nampula province. The training included classroom instruction and theory as well as applied learning — trainees actually installed solar suitcases at six health facilities under We Care Solar supervision. The training has paid off. One year after installation, all 30 solar suitcase are still welcoming babies into the world at night.

Read the whole story on our website at

<https://pwrdf.org/60-stories/nurse-latia-has-strong-teeth/>