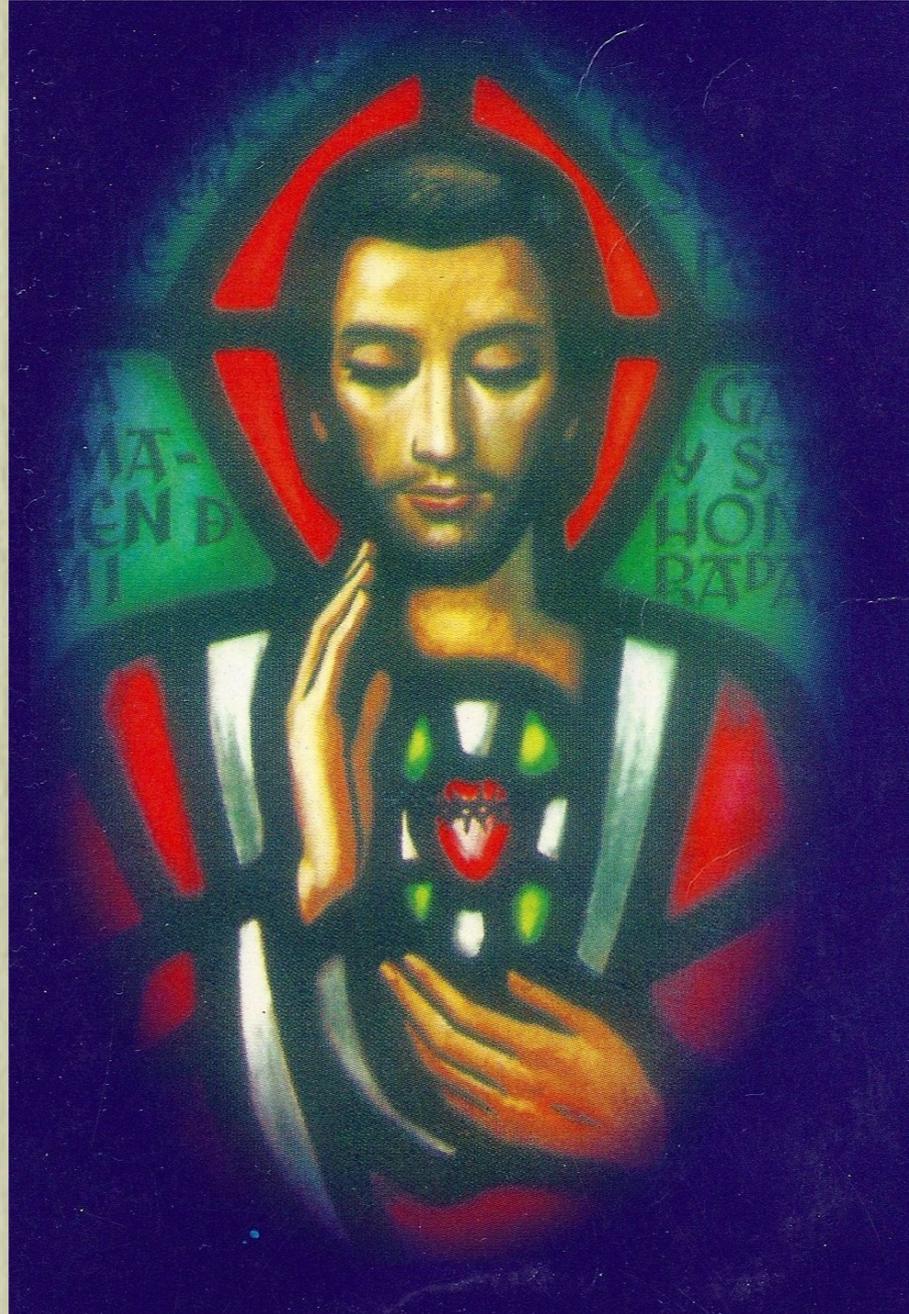
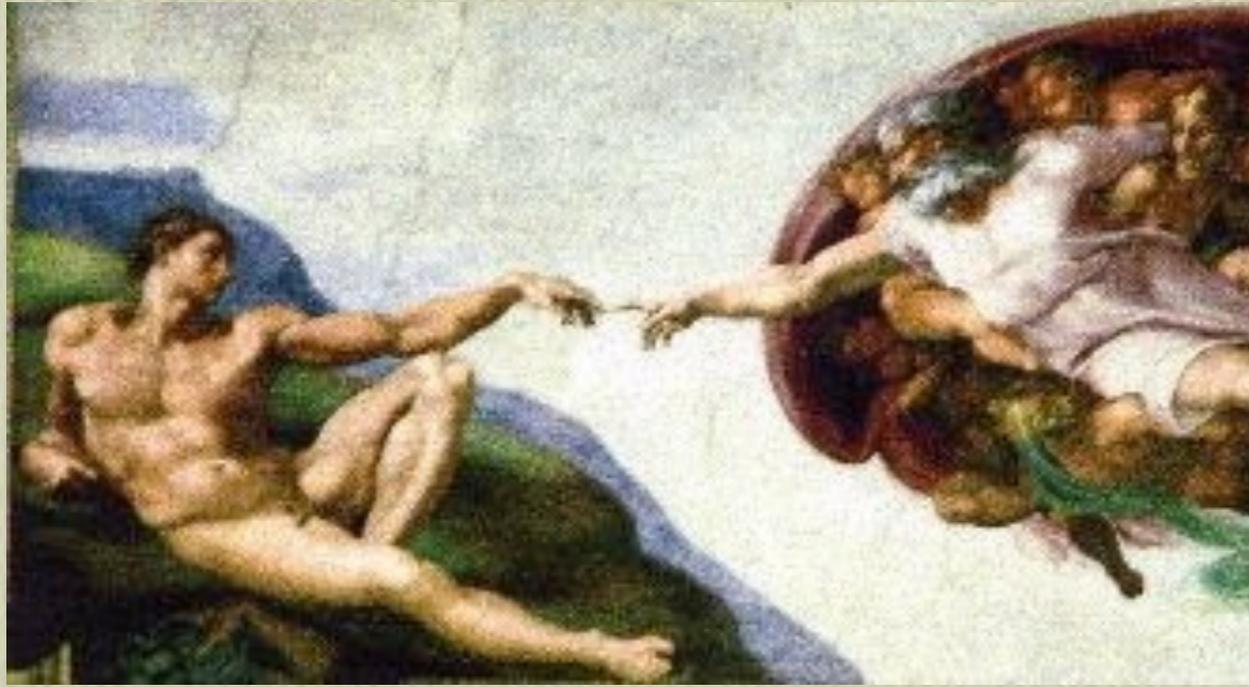


03. John's Prologue Part 2 John 1:14-18



Cover Image, The Heart of the Word Made Flesh,
Dennis J Murphy msc

‘The word became flesh and lived among us’ (John 1:14).



Michelangelo, The Creation of Adam, Sistine Chapel,
Public Domain, Wikimedia Commons



Jesus Questions Peter, freebibleimages.org, LUMO Project

‘In the Messiah the whole fullness of God was pleased to dwell’

(Colossians 1:14)

Jesus – God’s Word-made-flesh

- God’s Word is God as giving God’s Being in creation.
- ‘The word that goes forth from my mouth does not return to me empty without carrying out my will; and succeeding in what it was sent to do’ (Isaiah 55:11)
- ‘While gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, carrying the sharp sword of your authentic command’ (Wisdom 18:14-16).

- God's wisdom is God reflected in the beauty and order of creation, of history, of the Torah, and of Jesus.
- God's word is God bringing about this beauty and this order, especially through the words of the prophets and most especially through the life and teaching of Jesus.

Sirach 24:1-6

‘Wisdom tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:

“I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.

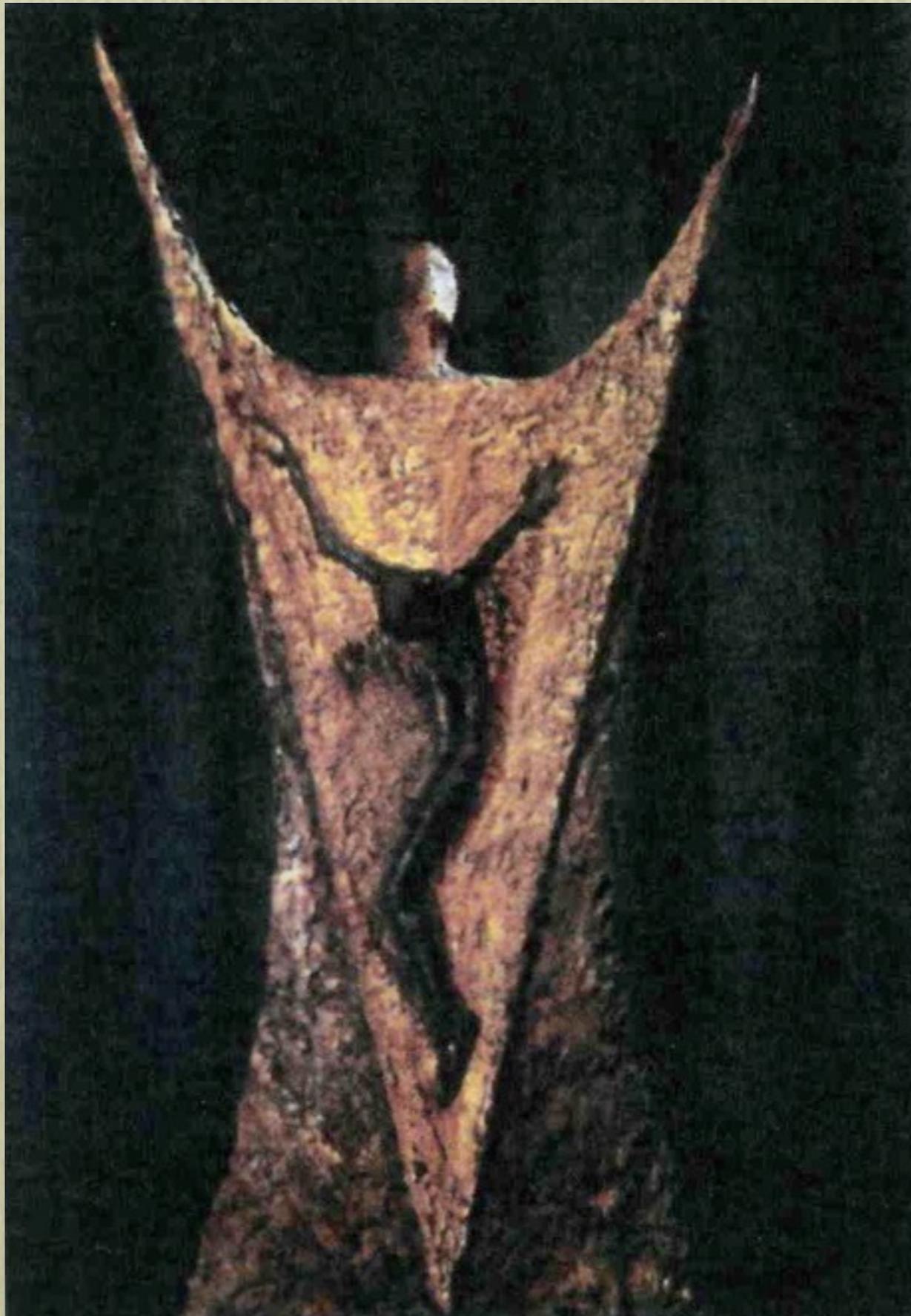
I dwelt in the highest heavens,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.

Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.

Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation I have held sway. ‘

‘God gives to creatures themselves the capacity for the new. Because of God’s creative and redeeming presence to creatures, they can become something they were not. When matter comes to life on earth, when life becomes self-conscious and personal, this occurs through God enabling creation to transcend itself and become something new.

Above all when one of us in the human and creaturely community, **Jesus** of Nazareth, is so radically open to God, so one with God, that we rightly see him as God-with-us, then we can say that in this person creation transcends itself into God’ (Denis Edwards, *How God Acts*, 158).



John 1:14

‘We have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father’s
only son,
full of the gift of truth
[grace and truth].

The **truth** = who God really is.

It is this that shows what creation
is, and what we human beings
really are: ‘made in God’s
image’ (Genesis 1:27).

We have seen his glory, for we
have experienced his Love.

The risen Christ is the goal of evolution.



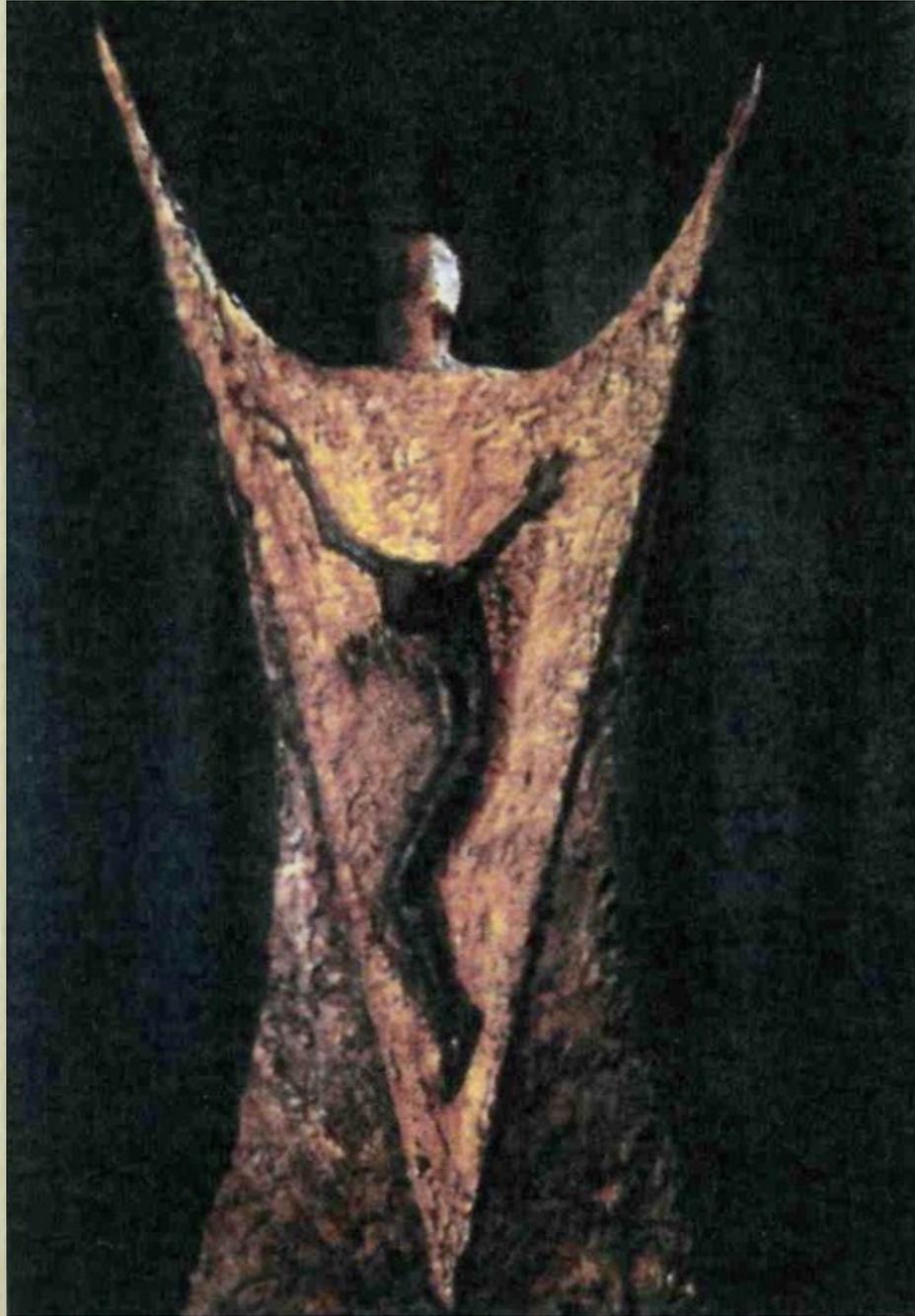
‘The Cross and Resurrection reveal the true nature of divine power, as the infinite capacity for self-bestowing love. This is love that does not overpower, but works in and through creaturely processes to bring life.’

(Denis Edwards, *How God Acts*, 33).



‘It is the very nature of God to be self-bestowing love. It is the very nature of divine power to enable the other to flourish in all the other’s integrity and proper autonomy ... What is true of divine action in the cross and resurrection of Jesus can be thought of as governing the other forms of divine action.’

(Denis Edwards, *How God Acts*, 33).

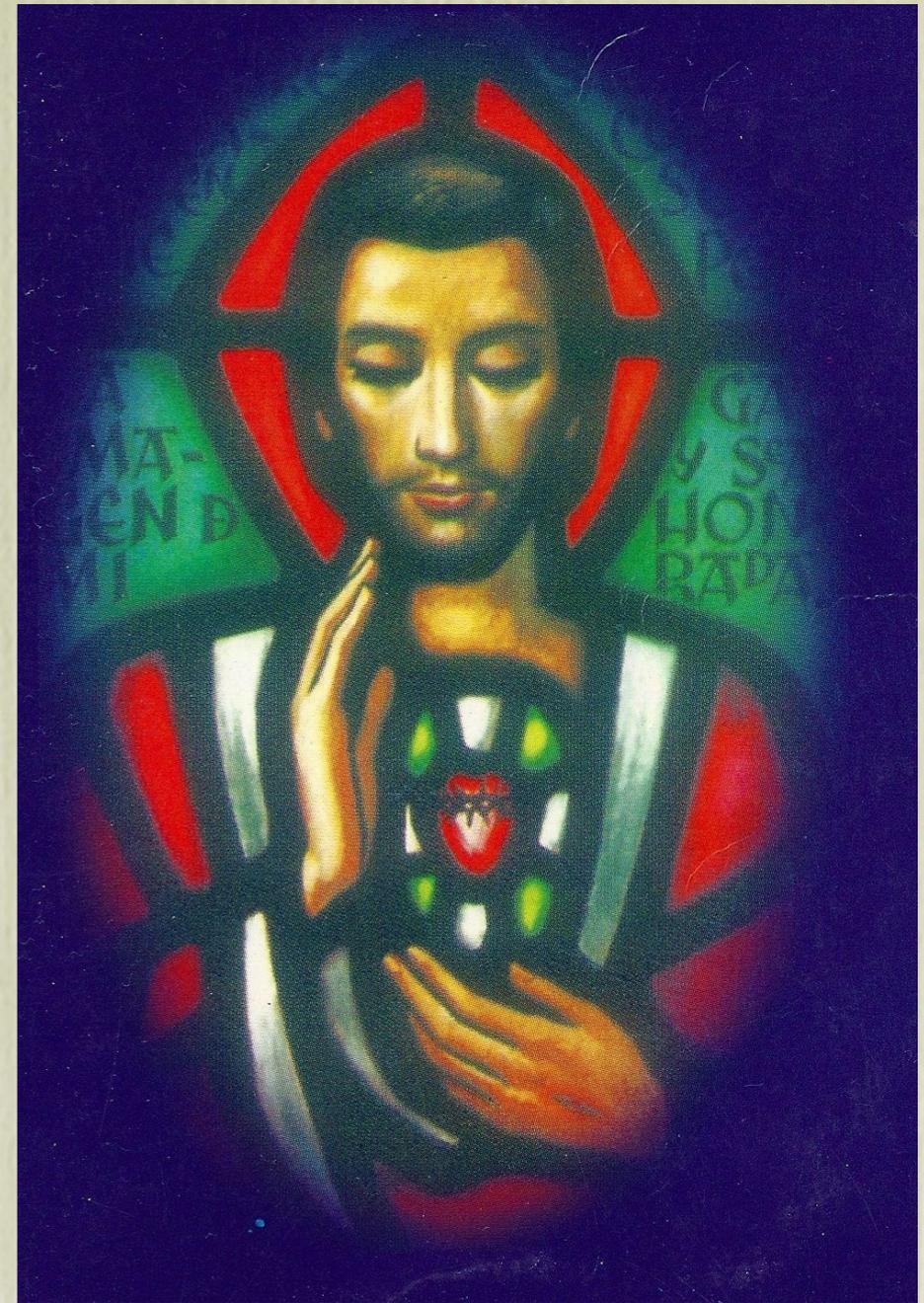


‘Self-bestowing love is what characterises the divine act of creation, and it is this same self-bestowing love that is revealed with the fullness of its promise in the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection is not an intervention of God from without, but the central revelation in our history of the act by which God creates, saves, and brings all to fulfilment.’

(Denis Edwards, *How God Acts*, 94).

‘The heart of God descends in haste
to his creation,
with the weight of an infinite love,
and the heart of creation rises towards God,
drawn by an attraction
that dominates all others in it.

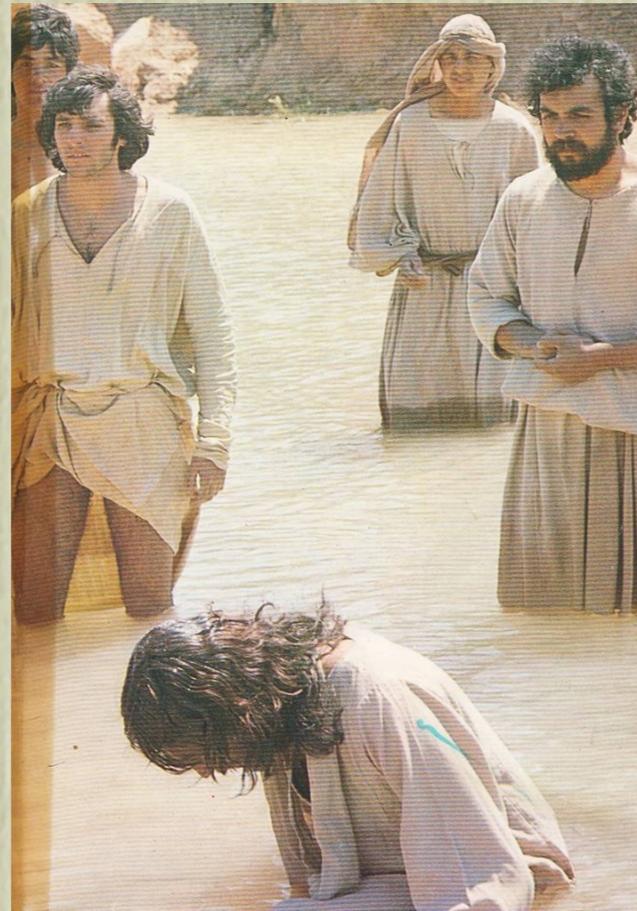
It is in Jesus that these two hearts meet,
and they unite so profoundly
that the two hearts become one.’



Cover Image, *The Heart of the Word Made Flesh*,
Dennis J Murphy msc

John 1:15

‘John testified to him and cried out: This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me’.

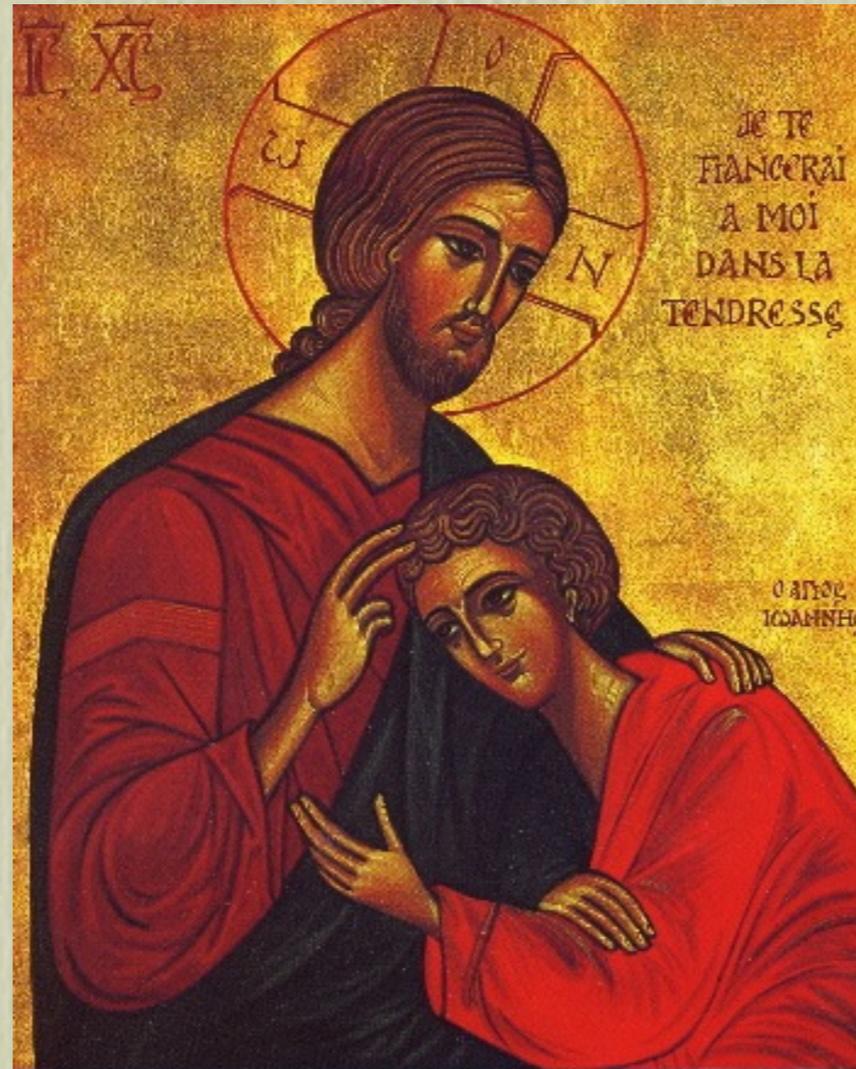


Ettore Masina, Jesus of Nazareth, Libreria Borgo, Rome, 1977

Just as the architect's plan comes before the building begins, so Jesus is the goal of human evolution.

John 1:16

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.



George Viredaz from an icon of Christ and Saint John
Dormition Abbey, Jerusalem. Used with permission.

We are graced to share Jesus' Spirit: his intimate communion with God, his faith, his hope and his love.

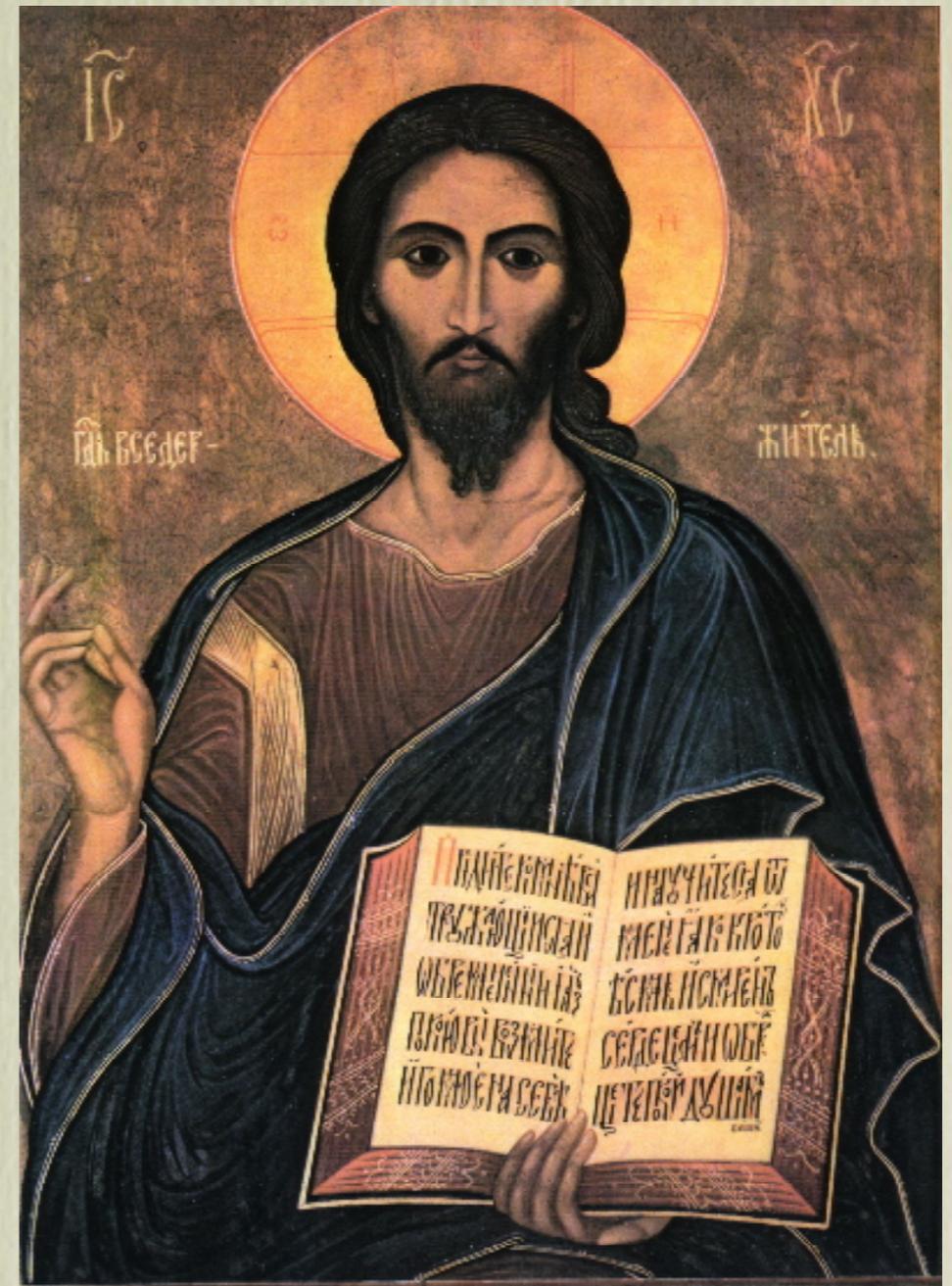
John 1:17

‘The Law [Torah] indeed was given through Moses;

the gift of Truth came through Jesus the Messiah.’



Jude mit Torah. Used with kind permission of the artist Albrecht Alt



John 1:18

‘No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son,
who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made God known.’



George Viredaz from an icon of Christ and Saint John
Dormition Abbey, Jerusalem. Used with permission.

To investigate how the Spirit of God acts in creation, we should watch how the Spirit acts in Jesus, for he believed: he welcomed the inspiration of the Spirit without reserve in all the circumstances of his life.

In Jesus we see the Spirit respecting people's freedom, healing where healing was welcomed (faith), forgiving where forgiveness was welcomed (faith), inviting everyone into communion ('bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame', Luke 14:21-23), inviting everyone to cooperate in bringing about the 'reign of God' (the reign of love).

'In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself' (2 Corinthians 5:19)

John 1:1-8

In the beginning was the word, and the word was towards God, and the Word was God. The word was in the beginning towards God. Through God's word all things came into being, and without it not one thing came into being. What has come into being in the word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not welcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

John 1:9-13

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. God's word was in the world, and the world came into being through it; yet the world did not know it. The word came to what was God's own, and God's own people did not accept it. But to all who received it, who believed, the word gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:14-18

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 the gift of truth.

John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus the Messiah. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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