

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

*5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And 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.*

*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.'") 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.*

Scientists have an idea that we have all heard a little bit about, I suspect. When talking about a moment in time when the universe began, they speak of all matter being collapsed into a space smaller than this room, smaller than me or you. All of the atoms and molecules that make up the earth and the planets, the sun and millions of stars, everything packed solid together. Then came what they speak of as the big bang, matter and energy were hurled outward. What we know as the universe began, they say.

It is almost impossible for us to think thoughts like that. How could everything be contained in so little a space?

"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 were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life and the life was the light of humans. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

If the scientists are right, if there was a moment in time when all matter was compressed down to a point in space, then this word of God was the power that did it. A word so mighty as to be able to take all the forces we encounter in the world and to shape and mold them like a child bends and twists and packs a piece of clay. A word so awesome that even the matter

itself, the stuff of all creation is created as God speaks this word. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God."

"And the word became flesh and dwelt among us."

If we are awed by the possibility of all matter being contained in a space a few feet or a few inches in diameter, then hear this word once more, "The word became flesh and dwelt among us" - the word that is God. All that God is from the very beginning, all that God shall be to the very end, condensed into one human life, the child born of Mary.

God's word in creation, God's word through Moses, God's word through prophets, God's word through the book of revelation, through the very end of all creation, even God's last judgement on everything and everyone awoke in Mary's arms, nursed at her breast, was gently rocked to sleep by her hand.

"For the word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father."

One day the world would hear him say, "I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me."

One day the world would hear him say, "I am the light of the world."

One day he would speak, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me though he die yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

But first the word of God, God himself, would have no words to speak, but a baby's sounds and babblings. He would be taught human language word by word by Joseph and Mary. The word became flesh; all that is God came down into one human life for us. We humans who only have the barest imaginings about the creation and how things work and hold together can not begin to understand the God who created it all. His glory, his power, his goodness, his love, we would be struck dumb, and blinded and overwhelmed to experience these.

But in the child born of Mary God has come down to us in every way - down to where we can receive him, and see him and hold him fast in faith.

"And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only son from the Father. No one has ever seen God, the only son who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known."

This morning we will participate in a miracle no less profound than all that is God, coming down to take on human flesh and blood through Mary. For our Lord will give his own flesh and blood to us in bread and wine. His life, his death his resurrection all become yours as you feast here upon your Lord. All that is God is given to you that you might believe in his name. To you who receive him, who believe on his name, he gives power to become children of God, born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

We may not understand all things, be able to comprehend the hows and the whys of all things, But in Jesus Christ, the word became flesh the almighty God is ours.