

To Ponder

Catching up with Jesus

By Diarmuid o'Murchu

Jesus was a creature of quantum embrace. Having broken down the congested boundaries of his day, he left us with a legacy of unfinished business. We are the privileged ones who have inherited that legacy. Just as the great work of creation continues, so does the work of the New Reign that Jesus inaugurated.

How do we embrace that challenge in our time? How do we salvage the tradition from the monopoly of patriarchal control? How do we retrieve the enduring truths from the rigidity of dogmatism? How do we reclaim the Jesus whose story we should never have closed in canonized scripture or in denominational religion?

Perhaps one way to reclaim what has been lost and subverted is to invoke the creative imagination, precisely what Jesus did in his life and ministry. Let the Jesus story be told afresh. Let it be told by an imaginary Jesus of our time. Let us not fret about honoring the tradition because all that is best in what we have inherited is already there in the living tradition. In a sense, the scriptures reveal Jesus in the collapse of the wave function — a particular, historical, cultural rendition. On the other hand, the living tradition embodies the Jesus who is the catalyst for new possibilities.

The Jesus who proclaims and embodies the fullness of life, transcends all the structural contexts of history, whether literary or institutional. Jesus lives primarily in the organ-icity of creation itself, not just in the human heart but in all the pulsations of creation's heartbeat.

It is that enlarged understanding of Jesus that seeks expression...a narrative that honors the Christ of yesterday, today and every day in the open-ended future of God's creation.

Reading

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You wait for a better world
What's wrong with the one you have?
You wait for a liberator
To reproach your inner slave.
You wait to see the face of God,
It's staring you in the eyes.
You wait for a better future,
And you miss today's surprise.

The waiting is a problem,
To which you love to cling.
It's all about the power games.
And the delusions that they bring.
The messianic figure —
Long before you ever knew
Irrupted in creation,
In the Spirit's vivid hue.

And the Spirit moves in freedom
Beyond the waiting and the now.
And the Spirit loves relating
When we don't control the "how."
Don't waste your time in waiting
For some God to intervene.
For God was never absent
From creation's epic scene.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

Song

O Holy Night by Il Divo

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices

O night divine, oh night when Christ was born
O night divine, oh night, oh night divine

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name
Christ is the Lord
Let ever, ever praise we

O night, o night divine
O night divine
O night, o holy night

Thank You For Joining Us!

Your Prayer Leader

Syndie Eardly

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Our prayer is characterized by silence
Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.