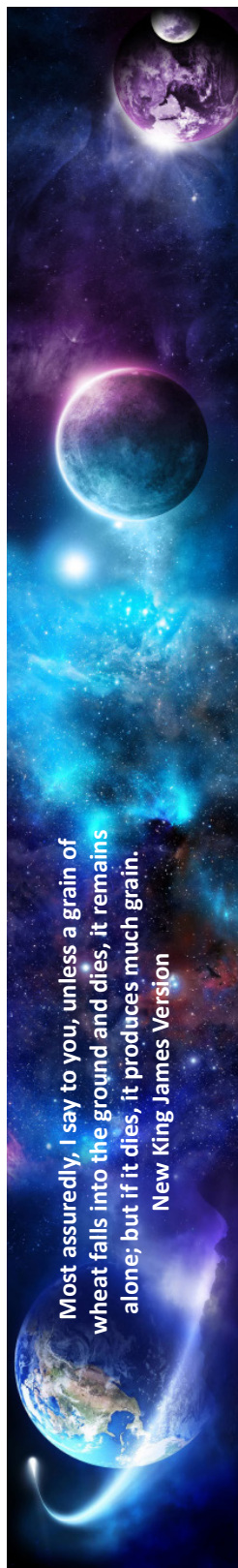


Explore the Theme — “Re-alignment”

a poem, a theologian’s musing & a timely astronomical breakthrough probe the meaning of Christmas
for other “Explore the Theme” postings visit <https://www.shcj.org/explore-the-theme/>

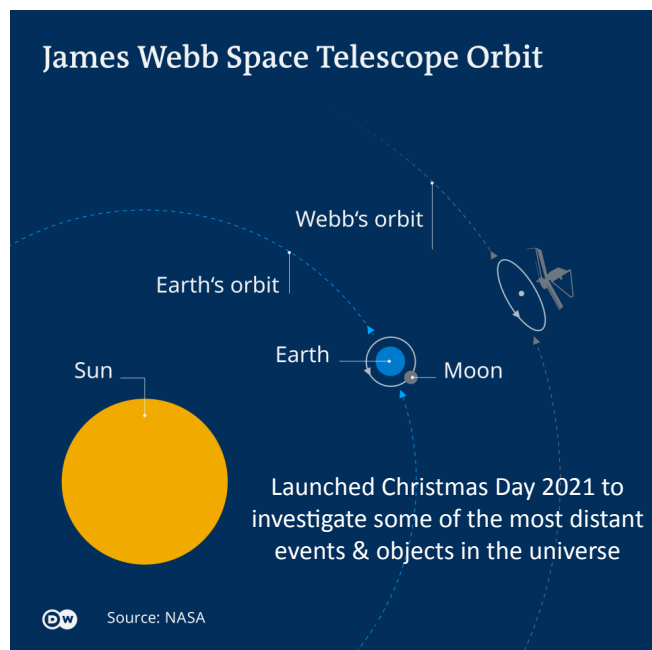


“Christmas on the Edge” by Malcolm Guite

Christmas sets the centre on the edge;
The edge of town, the outhouse of the inn,
The fringe of empire, far from privilege
And power, on the edge and outer spin
Of turning worlds, a margin of small stars
That edge a galaxy itself light years
From some unguessed at cosmic origin.
Christmas sets the centre at the edge.

And from this day our world is re-aligned
A tiny seed unfolding in the womb
Becomes the source from which we all unfold
And flower into being. We are healed,
The end begins, the tomb becomes a womb,
For now in him all things are re-aligned.

What does re-alignment mean for me/ us today?



“Breakthrough”

If the injustice and unreality that corrodes persons, systems, relations between nations and with the natural world is no longer to hold sway, then something does need to be overthrown.... And if something new is to become possible in place of this old, there’s also need of judgement — a reckoning with the truth, making clear of the outline of reality and realigning with it....

There must be an end to ‘former things’. Any of us who’ve suffered deep hurt, trauma, conflict know it’s not enough sincerely to profess ideals of harmony, forgiveness, integration.

To make any difference, to be effective, these ideals must be embodied. Somehow (and it can take a long time), we must live into them, be transformed by them from within.

This is incarnation, Word and spirit becoming flesh. Jesus embodied this reconciliation in all his living and dying.

This is why his birth is celebrated as a breakthrough in human being, the presence among us of a new humanity which (mysteriously) he enables us to share.

“Advent Calendar,” Sarah Bachelard, 18 December 2021; Benedictus Contemplative Church: <https://benedictus.com.au/>