



BIG INCARNATION — “How do we practice embodying God in our Lives?” by Matthew Wright

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Matthew Wright is priest-in-charge for St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church in Woodstock, NY, a writer, speaker, teacher and retreat leader in the Christian contemplative tradition. In this presentation he offers his “big” understanding of the mystery of Incarnation in the light of the writings of Teilhard de Chardin.

Here are some excerpts from Wright’s talk in 2022, and a link to a video of the whole presentation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8J_0G8oBjyE&t=1823s (42 minutes)

“.. what if we live inside the heart of God? **What if creation is the manifestation of the heart of God?** What if the world is the unfolding of the very heart of God which seeks to express itself here in the world of time...?”

“I want to explore incarnation in that sense – that **the cosmos is the incarnation, the enfleshment and embodiment of God** – the river system ... the trees ... the respiratory system ...”

“This concept of incarnation —we’ve often made it very small, [as if] it’s just a weird one-off that happened in Jesus, but the christian mystical tradition has always understood it as something much bigger than that **it doesn’t end with Jesus, but is to go on unfolding, a process of divinization in which we are awakening to the indwelling God ... we are to further God’s incarnation ...**”

Wright attributes the inspiration for his vision of big incarnation to the beliefs and writings of Jesuit paleontologist, Teilhard de Chardin:

“To live in an evolutionary universe means to join in God’s work. The doctrine of the Incarnation gave [Teilhard de Chardin] the framework for his vision — **the Word became flesh** — a descending God entering into the heart of matter; **not a one-time event but a vast, cosmic process initiated in the big bang and awakened to in Jesus.** The awakening continues unfolding in the mystical body of Xt, the human family. **The body of Christ is creation and we each have to contribute our part to incarnation** – each of us a microcosm in which the incarnation is wrought.”

“We live in an incarnational, eucharistic cosmos where the self-giving of God is ongoing.”

God has chosen to need men & women in every age to reveal divine love, to make known the reality of the Incarnation.