

Let Heaven and Nature Sing
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Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 P.M.

Outline – Sort of....

As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." (Luke 19:37-40 RSV)

It's over 2,000 years. And, the stones are still silent. Or are they?

As we move further into the world of quantum physics, we discover that no thing, nothing we know exists without the energy of the universe being directly or indirectly visible.

There is in everything evidence for some, proof for others – of the existence of God. We may learn how to duplicate or clone, but we do not create. God only has the great rights to creation – creating originals – just like each of us here. And when God creates, the diversity is as unlimited as we are capable of understanding, and the trouble begins when we attempt to define what God meant, what a family should look like, or how any one of us should ascribe the sacred mystery of our lives and loves to the values of others.

That said, one thing is for sure, the day Jesus was born all of God's creation was affected. It's absolutely true that the balance of the universe changes with each newborn, readjusting and realigning the stardust of our basic composition into a new design of God's great glory and love for combinations in ways that sing like the humming of this planet. (It does, you know, in B flat).

And the day Jesus was born, I think the place hummed a little louder and softer if possible.

You know, when the ancient, prophets, evangelists, and others reported that sun and stars and time stood still – they understood this impact of life and love – that is God, they understood that the cosmology was a part of everything and everything a part of cosmology - and that this man, Jesus, born to Mary and Joseph – whether in miraculous ways or not – was somehow connected major harmonic changes.

The impact of Jesus, his life, teachings, death, and resurrection as you may know the risen Christ – have set a hundred generations and many billions of people into song, praise, petition, reliance, taking direction for their lives, changing the way we treat one another, care for others, seek peace, justice, and a full embrace of God's entire creation. There are those too who have used his name for gain and control. For those, we must love them as we live into the lives each of us is called, taking the risk of being Christian or following our different faith traditions, practicing their principles – even, especially with those who would divide and marginalize anyone different.

Yes, if the stones were to cry out, they would cry out that one who was different – has made all the difference. We need to remember that.

OK, we don't have it exactly right, yet. There is still oppression, marginalization, suffering, despair, and work to be done in our broken world. But, you know, maybe the stones and the rocks are quiet because the universe and its creator still has faith and hope in us, in folks like you and this congregation – believers and seekers to be silenced when called to step up and speak for others who have no voice.

There is an inherent risk in loving others, especially with Jesus as a model. But it is there – in that love that all voice and energy exists. In that were we created – and what a gift we have been given in this Jesus of Nazareth – not for repose – but to be part of the universe in a way that harmonizes with the God who created it all. There is no better place to be.

Christmas, perhaps, is a reminder of that, more than anything else. A reminder that however we may come to know God – we need to know God and find the connection in our lives that continues the mission and the work of loving one another – and changing the world, as we go.

It's Christmas. The gift of love, whatever else we might give, can be a new beginning for a song of truth that marginalizes none of God's creation and let's all who will listen know that we welcome them in the name of the one who made us all. Now, there's a song for Christmas, the angels, and even the stones, Don't you think?!