



. . . the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to the saints, to them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery. . . : which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1. 26-27

To the saints of God at New Church – Chiesa Nuova, UCC,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus, whose birth we remember and celebrate today. Merry Christmas.

Over the weeks of Advent, I read so much about the waiting and anticipation of Jesus' birth. One of my very favorite Christian writers is Father Richard Rohr. He reflected on the birth of Jesus in one of his recent devotionals,

“In the first 1200 years of Christianity, the most prominent feast was Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Around 1200, Francis of Assisi entered the scene, and felt we didn't need to wait for God to love us through the cross and resurrection. He believed God loved us from the very beginning and showed this love by becoming incarnate in Jesus. . .

“But remember, when we speak of Advent or waiting and preparing for Christmas, we're not simply waiting for the little baby Jesus to be born. That already happened two thousand years ago. We're forever welcoming the Universal Christ, the Cosmic Christ, the Christ that is forever being born in the human soul and into history.”

So perhaps instead of thinking that Jesus was born for the sole purpose of saving us from sin, that instead we reframe our thinking, as have so many Christians, that Jesus was born to reveal the divine nature within each of us. The Apostle Paul wrote as much speaking of the mystery that is Christ in each of us. Rohr went on to say, “Either we see the divine image in all created things, or we end up not seeing it very well at all.”

Today, Christmas Day 2021, and as we move into the New Year 2022, I pray for all of us the ability to see the divine image in all created things. May God richly bless you and yours now and in the New Year.

Holy One, help us to come to know your love for your whole creation. Help us to see as you see and love as you love Amen.