

Homily

With much gratitude, thank you for coming to this Christ Eve celebration.

O Come, oh come Immanuel “Immanuel” means ***God with us***.

We humans are but creatures of the Earth and have self-identified us as Homo Sapiens, that is *Wise Man*.

Some of us might wonder at this statement by saying *What if only that were so?*

When we place ourselves in context of our history,
we might glimmer an appreciation
of what *Wise Man* actually may connotatively mean.
Certainly, we can agree that Homo Sapiens is not at all wise
Given a dictionary definition
in light of the ever present human circumstances
we create to destroy ourselves one way or another.

That means from what many of us choose to eat
to what battles we want to fight
for whatever purpose we create.
Homo Sapiens simply indicates
that we have an evolved frontal cortex
that contains sufficient neurons to handle flows of energy
some of which we label thought as the product of thinking
which we make up moment by moment
whether or not we declare our responsibility
for our own thinking behavior.

God with us. When we look in to the perceivable universe,
thanks to the James Webb telescope,
we witness an unimaginable and incomprehensible magnitude
of stars and galaxies
all of which that aren't even there any more.
We used to calculate the age of our universe
as only 13.8 billion years.
With the James Webb telescope
we may be 26.7 billion years old.
And Earth? Just about 4.7 billion years.
We are just witnessing the light there from
that is now just reaching us
given the incredible distances involved.

As a side note,
we may remember
that when we look at the Sun,
what we see is a double illusion.
First, it takes 8 minutes
for the Sun's light to be perceived on earth so,
hence, the Sun is not where we think it is and,
secondly, that image we think is out there
is really just in our visual cortex.
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, is it not?

God with us. Each Christmas for the past 2000 years
some of us have come together
to recollect just what *God with us* means in human form.
Biblical scholarship and archeology informs us
that many of the bible stories are just that - stories.

Through out human history we have created stories
so that we humans may treat one another a bit better
than our terrestrial animal neighbors
who act somewhat reactively to their internal needs
and to external threats to their survival.
Some of these stories contradict other stories
and sometimes even their own internal messages.
One message may seem constant:
Do unto other as you would have them do unto you.
Yet this admonition might be placed in contrast to
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth
and *Turn the other cheek*
and, of course, *Judge not lest you be judged.*

We are, at best, the most perfect in our imperfection
of all the species on Earth:
we are an inherent contradiction.
We tend to be blind
to the actuality of a circumstance just the way it is
and create instead a situation
that is just we what we think it is.

God with us. God we say is the Creator.
Are we not the creators of our own situations,
that is, the way we may interpret a circumstance to be?

And behind that realization is yet another.
Jesus identified as *I am the Alpha and the Omega* (Rev. 1: 8),
I am the beginning and the end
which means Christ Consciousness
where in the illusion of time
we transcend to realize God with us
and, hence, as Mister Eckhart would say:
*The eye through which I see God
is the same eye through which God sees me;
my eye and God's eye are one eye, one seeing, one knowing,
one love.*

*The only actual reality beyond the present, past, future is
only this moment, now. Unicity.*

And how do we experience such unicity?
Ask, **NOW**, *for what benefit am I experiencing this anger, grief, sadness, anxiety,
frustration **NOW**?*

Be aware of, acknowledge, accept and consciously let go of
our concept of the Great Trinity: **Me, Myself, and I** –
that which we use to separate ourselves
from ourselves and others and our environment.

We know that life is not a personal event
unless we make it so.
Life is just life.
And accordingly we may remember Jesus' prayer:
*Father, may they be one as you and I are one
that they may be one in us. (John 17:21-23) Unicity.*

Be wise. Practice
deep gratitude and understanding,
keen discernment,
and grow an ever increasing capacity for sound judgment,
only-just-now.

Merry Christmas and may God be with us, each and everyone. Many blessings to you
and yours, Peace and Joy!