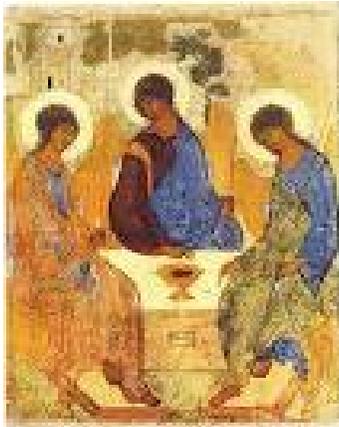


'O my God , You alone do I seek. You alone do I see reflected in all creation. Did you but cease to look on me with love, I would sink back into my very nothingness'

C.G. Van Crombrughe



In the beginning about 14 billion years ago there are three persons: innocent, energetic, non-threatening almost vulnerable and living in a loving fruitful communion.

In the Icon the connecting wings create the effect of the persons linked in a circle dance.

A flow of relationship, a movement, each one moving into the other in an interpenetrating, interconnectivity, a constant self-giving and self-emptying motion of love and love energy.

They decide to pour out the energy of their loving relationship, and to share the love energy, which sets our universe in motion. We see the Creator source of life on the left, and on the right the life giving Spirit and the Christ in the centre.

In front, as the Spirit is indicating with the right hand there is a space in which the painter of the Icon would like you to see yourself, almost like a fourth person and with you the entire cosmos of which you are a part.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him; and without him was made nothing that was made. (John 1:1-3)

Thus began in deep time and in space in the heart of the Trinity the birthing of the cosmos which continues till today.

O Holy One, how radically amazing is your gift of life. We stand in awe before your presence and your ceaseless creativity at each successive step in evolution of life on our planet.

Even now you manifest your presence in this present moment as it is unfolding.

Help us to grow in our ability to attend to your presence in all that is, and deepen our contemplative awareness to see more clearly your creativity and love.

Hildegard of Bingen the great German mystic of the twelfth century, in one of her many wide awake visions heard God say **'I the highest power have kindled every living spark and I have breathed out nothing that can die. I flame above the beauty of the fields, I shine in the waters the sun the moon and the stars; by means of the airy wind I stir everything into quickness with a certain invisible life which sustains all. I the fiery power, lie hidden in all things And they blaze fourth my Divine life.**

'O my God, You alone do I seek. You alone do I see reflected in all creation'.

In the fourteenth century in a revelation to Julian of Norwich she was shown:

'In this he showed me a little thing, the quality of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand as it seemed. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought' What might this be'? And it was answered me generally thus: 'It is all that is made'. I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen into nothingness for littleness. And it was answered in my understanding: it lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God'.



At no time has the Divine been separated from all that exists, the Divine is the light and life within Creation. It is the Divine energy and providence that has kept the universe moving and continuing to exist, from the biggest down to the very littlest thing. It is the Divine alone that C.G. Van Crombruggehe saw reflected *in all creation. And he knew like Julian that without Divine love everything would sink back into nothingness.*

Scientists tell us that overall 95% of our universe is made up of dark energy and dark matter a form which cannot be touched nor seen nor understood, yet it is this dark energy, hidden in all things, pulsating through space, that sustains life and all that exists, bringing things together in wholeness and stretching everything in an ever expanding creativity.

Like the dark energy our God is a hidden God, whose activity is mysterious to us, a mystery which has to do with not knowing, with unknowing, more often sensed in absence than in presence.

Are we called like Moses to stand firm as though like him we are seeing the invisible? watching the living flame of God energizing our whole universe, as Moses once recognized the flaming presence of Yahweh in burning bush?

Sensitive to the life force of Divine energy pulsating through every living being and through every cell in our bodies, are we invited to step intentionally into the darkness of Mystery!

The Holy One is Mystery! Who has ever seen God face to face?

Is God calling us today to lay down our agendas, to accept the anxiety of feeling ourselves incomplete, to empty ourselves of misconceptions and to live in the unknown with faith, in the uncertain with hope, trusting in the revelation of a deeper knowing and certainty.

May we embrace our inner space and grow in wisdom, compassion and mercy. May we enter a stillness where we touch into the Divine Spaciousness of our hearts, deep enough to bear the Divine and move in the world with Compassion.

Sister Maureen O'Connor DMJ