

The Gospel according to John

The Being (LXX for Yahweh)
Exodus 3:14

Jesus Christ



'I will betroth you
to myself
in tenderness'
(Hosea 2:20)

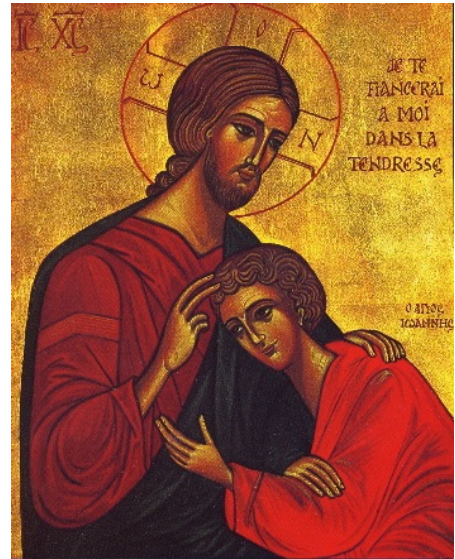
Saint
John

God is Love. To enter the human condition Love must be welcomed

It was Jesus' grace-filled
response that opened the
way for God to enter fully
into the human condition.



From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace.



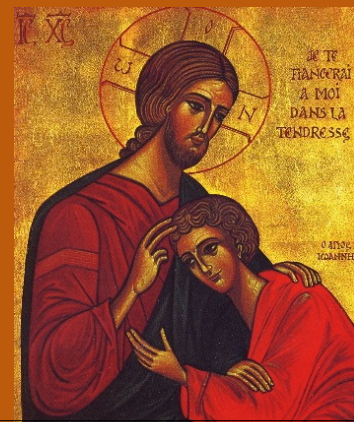
La'illaha il' Allah





You are my breath
Breathe in me
You are my light
Reveal me
You are the sweetness
in all things
Oh My Beloved.

La'illaha il' Allah



**'In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was towards [pros] God,
and the Word was God.
The Word was towards God
in the beginning.**



All things came into being through the Word,
and without the Word not one thing came into being.



What has come into being in the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.'

The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.
God's Word was in the world,
and the world came into being through God's Word;
yet the world did not know God's Word.

God's Word came to what was God's own,
and God's own people did not accept God's Word.



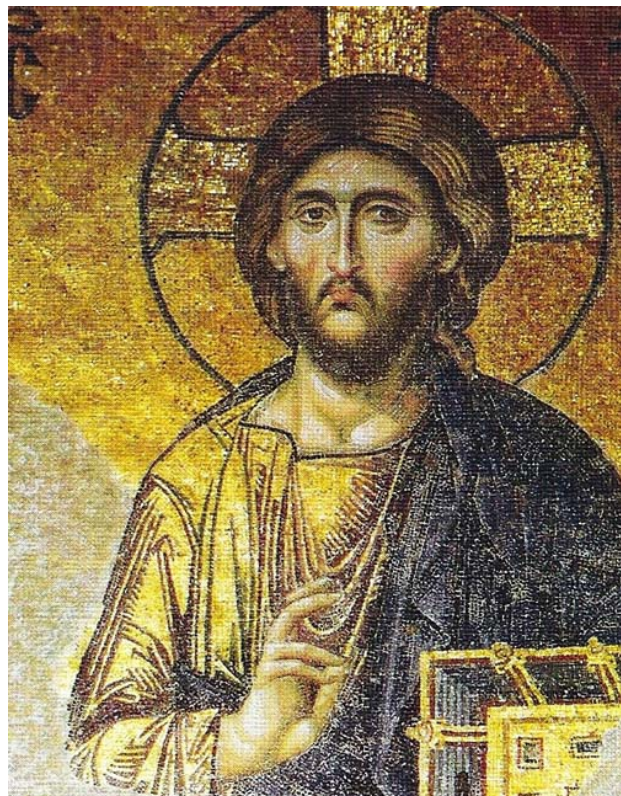
John 1:11-13

But to all who did welcome
the Word, and believe,

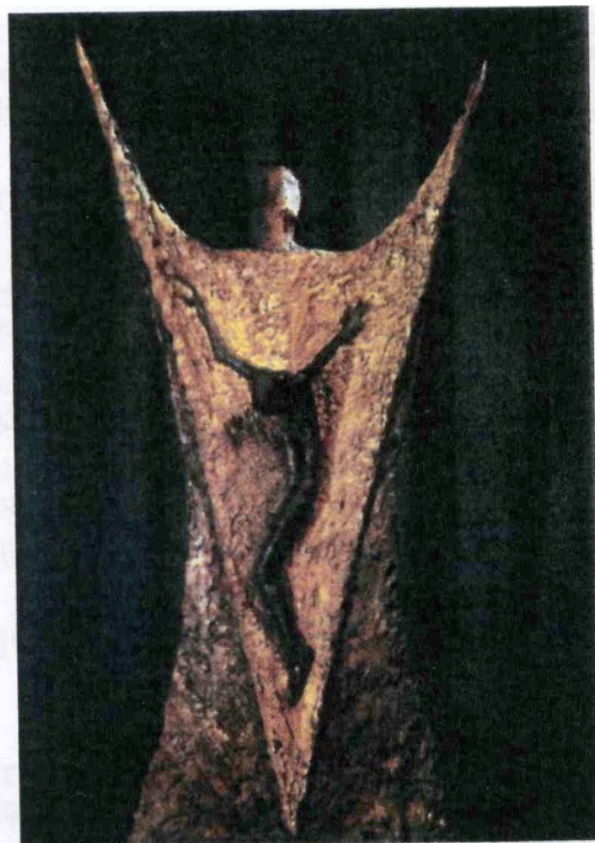
the Word gave power to
become children of God,

born not of human
generation ['bloods']
or of human striving
['the will of the flesh']
or of male power,
but of God.

The Word became flesh
and lived among us



and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's
only son,
full of the gift of truth.



From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace.

‘The heart of God descends in haste
to his creation,
with the weight of an infinite love,

and the heart of creation rises towards God,
drawn by an attraction
that dominates all others in it.

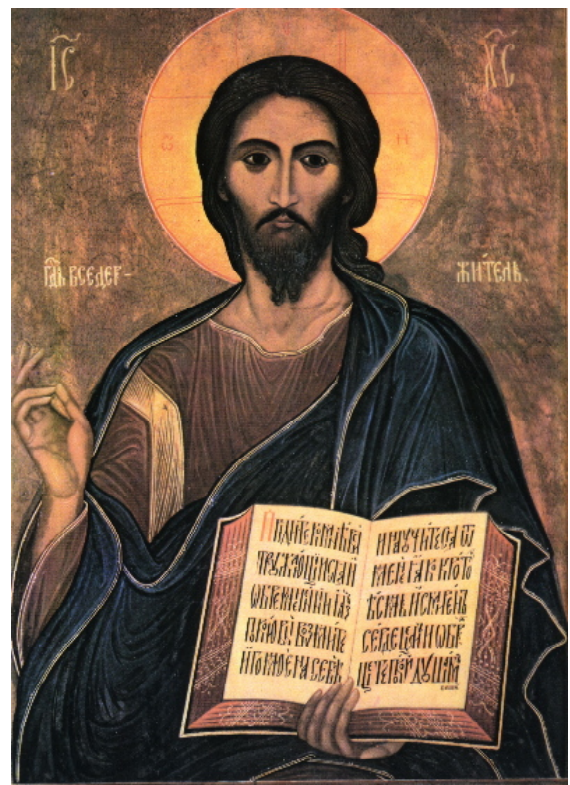
It is in Jesus that these two hearts meet,
and they unite so profoundly
that the two hearts become one.’



(Jules Chevalier, 'The Heart of Jesus, page 76.

John 1:17

‘The Law [Torah] indeed was given through Moses; the gift of Truth came through Jesus the Messiah.’



John 1:18

‘No one has ever seen God. It is God’s only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made Him known.’

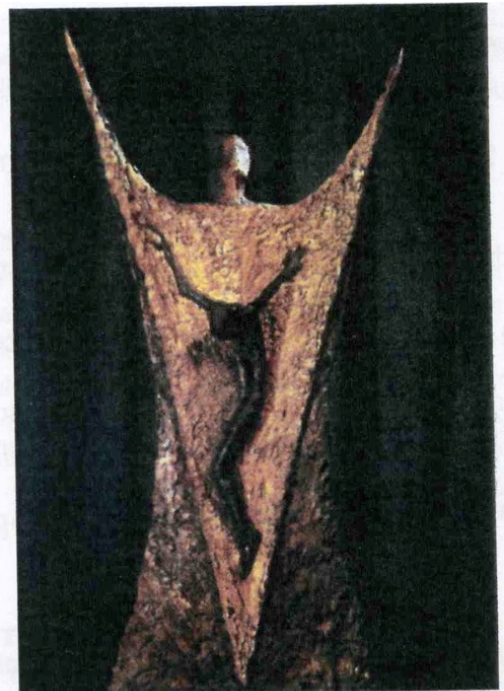
In Paul's words" 'in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself'(2Corinthians 5:19).

In John's words: 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life'(John 3:16).

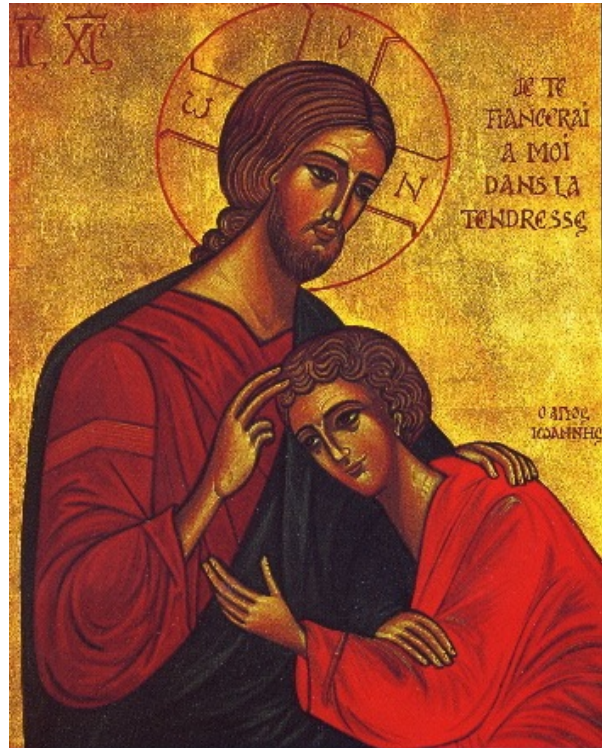
Hence the conviction of Jesus' followers that they must carry on the mission of Jesus by sharing the Good News with 'all nations'(Matthew 28:19).

It was Jesus' communion with God that was the source of his life.

At the Last Supper, with a broken heart, he said: 'You will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone'(John 16:32). He went straight on to add: 'Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.'



Living in communion with Jesus we are able to live in such a way that God can be 'everything to everyone' (1Corinthians 15:28).



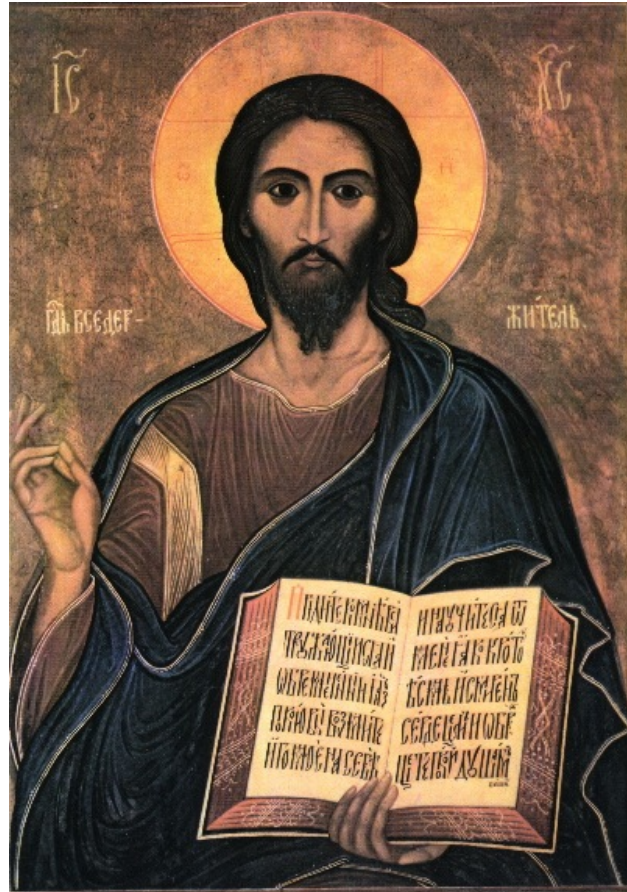
At the heart of Jesus' disciples attraction to him was their experience of his special relationship to God. Again and again the Gospels speak of Jesus' prayer.

'At that time Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'" (Luke 10:21-22; see Matthew 11:25-27).

It was this special relationship that fascinated Jesus' disciples, and, more than anything else attracted them to him.

It was this, too, that scandalised the religious leaders (John 5:18).

Jesus knew that his being and his mission were from the Father (John 5:26; 5:30).



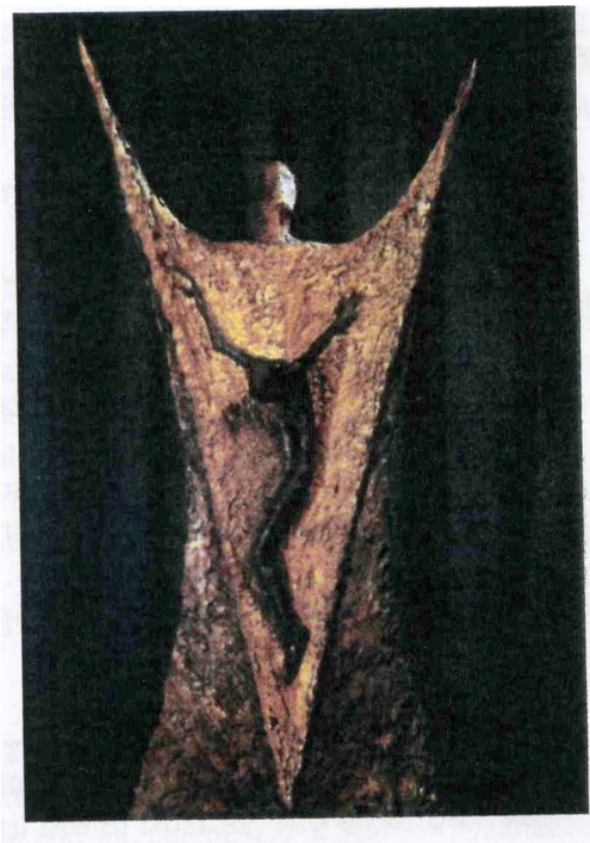
Matthew, Mark and Luke describe Jesus' anguished prayer in Gethsemane

(see Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; compare John 12:27).

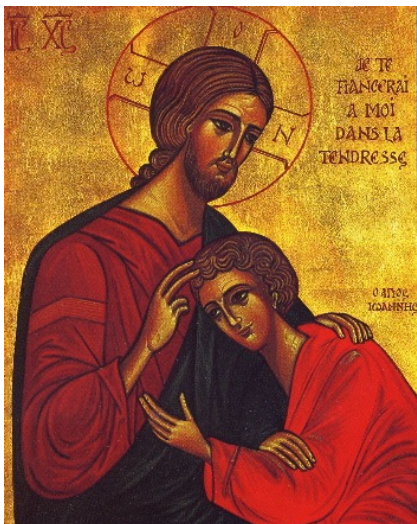


Jesus' humanity, but also his faith in God are, perhaps, nowhere shown more poignantly than in his cry from the cross: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'(Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).

It is his faith in God that Luke highlights when he records Jesus' prayer from the cross: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'(23:46).

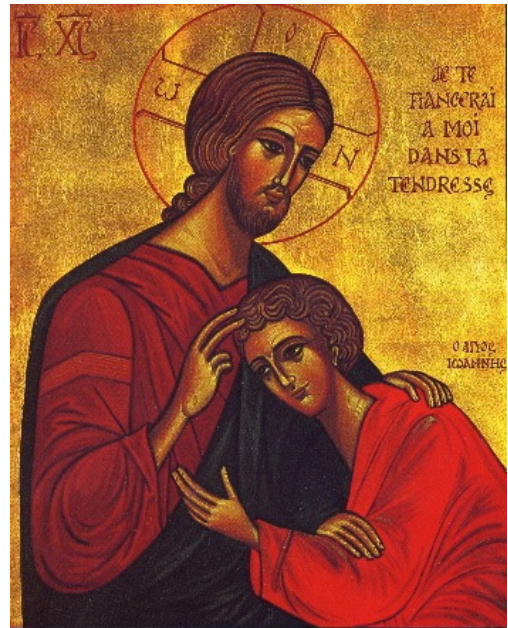


No one brings out the intimacy of Jesus with God better than the Beloved Disciple, who leaned against Jesus' breast at the Last Supper, and stood by the cross with Jesus' mother.



Everything Jesus said or did came from this special communion. John writes: 'The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands'(John 3:35).

His special communion did not protect him from the suffering that is part of the human experience, but it sustained him, and the fruit of this communion was a love that his disciples had never previously experienced: a love for them, indeed for the world, that flowed from his loving communion with God



In God alone (singles)