



### John 1:1-5, 14-18 New Revised Standard Version

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>14</sup> And 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 grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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Jesus. Down through the centuries, much has been written about this man. People, even those who claim no affiliation with Christianity, have come to admire Jesus as a great teacher, moral exemplar, and gentle servant. However, for the Christian faithful, we know Jesus to be so much more: Son of God, Savior of Humanity, King of Kings...



For generations, the Jewish faithful had longed for the Messiah who would wipe away the oppression of external rule and reinstate the glory days of Israel's history. Following a lengthy wait, during the reign of King Herod, a baby was born to a virgin and her fiancé from Nazareth in Galilee. They were ordinary by human standards, but chosen of God to share in the story of human salvation.

In today's Scripture reading, we hear the words of John's Gospel (its prologue to be exact). It is a passage that, unlike Matthew and Luke, tells the story of Christ's incarnation (entry into human life) from a unique perspective. There are no angels or shepherds; rather its words capture the theological significance of what God has offered to humanity.

In a move which many within the first century (and perhaps even today) found difficult to believe, the God of the universe entered into the realm of humanity. The wording used by John describes the incarnation as the "Word becoming flesh." Why did God take on human flesh? Well, the answer is multifaceted and beyond the time constraints of a single sermon. However, John 1 supplies a few insights related to Jesus which we affirm as essential to our Christian beliefs:

1. Jesus, like God, has been from the beginning.
2. Jesus' purpose was to bring transformation to humanity.
3. Jesus supplies us with the clearest expression of who God is.

**Prayer Pebble:** Lord, just as you were born into human flesh, be born in my heart today.