

## WELCOME TO...

### The Presbyterian Church of Saint David June 18, 2017 The Cosmic Christ

COSMIC  
CHRIST  
with Fr. Richard Rohr



**...and neither is the Son younger than the Father,  
nor is the Father older than the Son; and the  
Holy Spirit breathes in them. And the Father and  
the Son and the Holy Spirit are inseparable.**

from Tírechán's Creed in *The Patrician Texts of the Book of Armagh*,  
AD 670 Dublin (Silent meditation)

Hymn: Immortal, Invisible (verse 1) 290

*Glorious Lord, Creator of Cosmic Wisdom, we come together today especially,  
to drink deeply of Your waters, awoken from our daily indifferences to You,  
and stop squandering the preciousness of each moment of life. Help us to give  
our best praises to You through our actions toward one another and to our  
Mother the Earth. Incarnate Jesus, the Christ of all peoples, teach us to  
see You in all faces and consciously embrace Your ways*

Hymn: Immortal, Invisible (verse 2) 290

*Glorious Lord, Creator of Cosmic Wisdom, let us call upon the leaders of this  
world, our country, and our community to cease using religion and the politics*

*of power and greed to divide and threaten. Let us not be imprisoned together as  
strangers, but rather live peacefully together as members of Your One Family.  
We pray especially for: (silent prayers) Incarnate Jesus, the Christ of All  
Peoples. Teach us to see You in all faces and consciously  
embrace Your ways*

Hymn: Immortal, Invisible (verse 3) 290

*Glorious Lord, Creator of Cosmic Wisdom, let us create harmony and healing  
together for all who suffer in spirit, soul, or body. We pray especially  
for: (silent prayer) Incarnate Jesus, the Christ of All Peoples Teach us to  
see You in all faces and consciously embrace Your ways.*

Hymn: Immortal, Invisible (verse 4) 290

#### **Introduction to reading:**

*"We've turned Christianity into that evacuation plan for the next world. The  
term "cosmic Christ" reminds us that everything and everyone belongs. We're  
all unworthy but the mystery of the Incarnation means the divine indwelling is  
in all of us. We're indeed the body of Christ. God's hope for humanity is that  
one day we will all recognize that the divine dwelling place is all of creation.  
Christ comes again whenever we see that matter and spirit coexist. This truly  
deserves to be called good news."*

#### **Hebrews 1 God Has Spoken by His Son**

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways  
by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a  
Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also  
created the worlds.<sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the  
exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his  
powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat  
down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,<sup>4</sup> having become as  
much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more  
excellent than theirs.

*(The opening of John's letter tells us that, in Jesus Christ, what existed from  
the beginning is now reachable, touchable, knowable, seeable and lovable. We  
humans can't fall in love with a concept, with something that is just pure  
energy. The gift of the Incarnation is that we have someone now we can see,  
touch and love.)*

## 1 John 1 The Word of Life

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - <sup>2</sup> this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— <sup>3</sup> we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

**A word** from Richard Rhor: Keeners can preview at:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+cosmic+christ+richard+rohr&qpv=the+cosmic+christ+richard+rohr&view=detail&mid=CEB3C28281D0240C15EDCEB3C28281D0240C15ED&FORM=VRDGAR>

Hymn: O Lord of every shining constellation (1-2) **302**

*Christian scripture, in fact, gives us Jesus' place in that history counted in billions of years if you look for it -- in the prologue to John's Gospel, for example, or in the Pauline hymns of the letters to the Colossians and Ephesians, or in the opening of John's first letter. All speak of Christ existing from all eternity. We just don't see those references. They've never been unpacked for the majority of Christians, and we don't have theology to know how to see it... It's a Franciscan approach, and indeed was the theology of key Franciscan figures like Duns Scotus and St. Bonaventure. It will increasingly become mainline spirituality as we become more comfortable with an expanded view of the mystery of Incarnation in the cosmos. If we Christians had taken this mystery seriously, we would never have raped the planet like we do, never have developed such an inadequate theology about sexuality. (Richard Rhor)*

Hymn: O Lord of every shining constellation (3-4) **302**

**Invitation:** *Come, for all things are now ready. Come to the place of this table in this moment called 'now'. For here and now, the Christ who fills the cosmos, fills each of you with healing. May we who share these gifts, share the cosmic Christ with one another.*

*Proverb 8: 1-11 from the Message*

*I was right there with him, making sure everything fit.  
Day after day I was there, with my joyful applause,  
always enjoying his company,  
Delighted with the world of things and creatures,  
happily celebrating the human family.  
So, my dear friends, listen carefully;  
those who embrace these my ways are most blessed.  
Mark a life of discipline and live wisely;  
don't squander your precious life.  
Blessed the man, blessed the woman, who listens to me,  
awake and ready for me each morning,  
alert and responsive as I start my day's work.  
When you find me, you find life, real life,  
to say nothing of God's good pleasure.  
But if you wrong me, you damage your very soul;  
when you reject me, you're flirting with death.*

### **\*2nd Reading: A Reading From the Writings of Matthew Fox**

*Listen to the Cosmic Christ, to Cosmic Wisdom calling all the children of God together: "Come children, drink of my waters which are all common waters. They are free and available to all my children. Drink of my wisdom from your own unique well. Let the Taoists drink and the Muslims drink; let the Jews drink and the Buddhists drink; let the Christians drink and let the native peoples drink. And then tell me: What have you drunk? How deeply have you imbibed my refreshment? What wet and running wisdom drips from inside you to the outside? What have you to share with others of my wisdom and harmonious living, of the dripping of the oils of compassion and the lubricants of your common anointings as my images, my other "Christs," my co-creators of wisdom on earth? I am tired of your religious wars, your sectarian divisions, your crusading spirits that arise from disharmony. I long for harmony. If there must be competition, let it take place at the level of shared gifts and bountiful outpouring of wisdom. Pray together. Create harmony and healing together. Celebrate, praise, and thank together. Cease using religion to divide. Use it for its purpose, to reconnect to Mother Earth, to blessings, to the underground river*

*that I am and that you all share. And cease scandalizing the young by your indifference to these awesome blessings, by your competition, and your boredom. Praise one another. Praise the earth. In doing so, you praise me.”* Matthew Fox, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, Harper and Row, San Francisco, 1988

*May the Spirit of God, who is the cosmic power above all and in all and through all, fill you with an awareness of Christ’s presence, permeating the cosmos, and pulsing within you. Go in peace! **We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.***

Hymn: Thanks to God whose word was spoken (vs 1-2) **509**

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. **God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise. God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the cosmos, we celebrate the wondrous design of the universe and the Wisdom that guides its course. Help us to discern how we are connected with living members of the cosmic community. Teach us to sense the presence of the cosmic Christ, whose presence fills and reconciles all forces in creation. May this meal we will share renew us and inspire us to work for peace and justice in the world.*** (Prayer continues)  
*Therefore with voices of thanks echoing through the cosmos from the first day of creation until this very moment in time, we praise and thank you saying:*  
**Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of all life! The cosmos is filled with your presence!**

Hymn: Thanks to God whose word was spoken (vs 1-2) **509**

### **Communion**

**Prayer after Holy Communion** *O Cosmic Christ, in your heart all creation finds meaning and purpose. In this post-Easter, in this Pentecostal age, help us find that which we all seek: **a communion of love with each other and with you, the Alpha and Omega, the first and last, the yesterday, today, and tomorrow, the beginning without end.*** Amen.

Hymn: May the Lord bless you **553**