

Richmond Hill
 Richmond, Virginia
 27 December 2010
 First Sunday of Christmas
 John 1:1-18
 In the beginning
 The Rev. B. P. Campbell

Retelling the Creation Story

¶ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 2 He was in the beginning with God.
 3* All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being
 4* in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
 5* The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
 6* ¶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
 7* He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
 8* He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.
 9* The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
 10* He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
 12* But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
 13* who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
 14* 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.
 15* ¶ (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.'")
 16* From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
 17* The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
 18* No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

At the beginning of the new year we retell and recast the Creation story.

A recasting of the creation story: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The Creation, the universe, is personal.

We are not the only personal reality. But personal reality is its foundation. God/Word/logos. Idea. Concept. Purpose. Intelligent reason. Desire. Personal pronoun: Through him. Not through it. Therefore story is essential.

A land of light and darkness.

A great drama. Life and death. But darkness did not overcome. Secrecy. Revelation. [He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the

world did not know him.] The drama of light and darkness, life and death. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

We have seen someone who makes sense of it.

Lives the drama. A matter of the right spirit – the authentic, identifying spirit. Lives the grace and truth necessary to overcome. Represents the person who began it all. A great story. False dichotomies between science and religion. More likely between impersonal and personal, hope and despair, darkness and light, death and life, futility and love. Unsophisticated, and totally sophisticated. More likely true than not.

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5* The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome [ou katelaben] it.

¶ en arch hn o logov kai o logov hn prov ton yeon kai yeov hn o logov

2 outov hn en arch prov ton yeon

3* panta di autou egeneto kai cwriv autou egeneto oude en o gegonen

4* en autw zwh hn kai h zwh hn to fwv twn anyrwpwn

5* kai to fwv en th skotia fainei kai h skotia auto ou katelaben

[But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 14* 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.]

Creation is alive. That is a definition of creation – and it is, essentially, a self-limitation. Living.