

## Daniel's reflection for Week beginning 11th December The Silent Heart

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The Incarnation actually happened! . . . God has allowed the divine self to be reached and possessed by humanity's questing spirit for the absolute – the free spirit implanted by God in the first place in the heart of humankind. God wishes to be lost in us. Men and women are the absolute openness for God's own self, which cannot be given in any more total way than by creating us in a fashion that is capable of receiving this divine self in its generosity and extravagance. " God is the prodigal who, in fact squanders, himself/herself," writes Rahner, "and when God lets himself go outside himself, then humanity appears." So God has become man and woman, child and non-human life. The world and its destiny are now a part of God's very self. Now we are no longer watched by Love as a spectator; the life of this Love is our life too." . . .

We no longer seek God in the endlessness of a bewildering and distant heaven where our tired spirit loses its way. The incarnate God, in a sense, is no better than we are, struggling with and in us, in no way specially privileged, but hungry, frightened and killed. That the infinity of God should take upon itself human narrowness; that joy should accept the mortal sorrow of a fallen earth; that life should take on death – this is the most unlikely and often obscure truth. And this is why we light candles at Christmas.

We light them because we sense that now God has spoken into the heart of the world, the silent world of the last, the deepest, the most beautiful and loving reality of divinity made flesh. Through the birth of this child, everything is already transformed. All hope is already real possession. God is already possessed by the world. All wisdom is within our grasp now because its source is firmly rooted within the human, graced spirit. All bitterness is only the reminder that it is not yet clearly known that the one universal revelation has happened; and all the happiness of this earth is only the mysterious conformation, still lost on most of us, that Love is already at home in the heart of all creation. (Year of the Heart pp 48,49)

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