



School of Optometry Chaplaincy Office

Psalm 33.18: "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy."

All-Seeing Eye



Expecting a Surprise

Each day holds a surprise.

But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us.

Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy.

It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.

Nouwen, Henri J. M.
Bread for the Journey

A New Year

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

We are at the beginning—the beginning of a new year and the beginning of the divine mystery. Today's reading poetically describes the pre-existent Christ, the Word, becoming a human being.

John's Gospel explains that the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This Word is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. John shows that this Jesus is equal to God; God is one, yet exists in separate persons. Jesus, the Word, has been there with God before the Creation. So Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, was in the genesis of the world with God. All things in the world were created by God through the Word.

Jesus is alive and is himself God incarnate and expresses all that God wants to say to us about who God is. John the Baptist came to bear testimony to the light so that all who hear John's testimony might have faith.

Today's reading shows us that the same power that the triune God used to create the world is the power God is still using to create new life and to bring new life, even in our most hopeless situations. God creates from nothing and can create order where we see nothing but chaos and disorder.

Jesus is the source of all life and the center of our faith and hope. In Jesus, we find life, and his life is light to us—the light that exposes evil and illuminates our lives. Jesus restores our broken relationships and brings life to the dead places of the world. No evil is able to overcome the power of God in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the true life and true light to all who trust in him, and he is the author of our salvation.

God, you create new life and offer new life to us through your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us turn to you when we face situations that seem hopeless, for only in you can we find light and life. Amen.

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El Aposento Alto / The Upper Room (January-February 2022) devotionals are available in the Chapel, the Students Center and in the Center for Access to Information.

New Year 2022: TRUST



Hinduism

No enemies can overcome the believer.
He trusts in God, knowing that God will guide him through all troubles.



Buddhism

The mind of faith . . . is a deep mind, an unquestioning mind.



Taoism

One who loves himself as much as the world can be trusted with the world.



Confucianism

Confucius said, "If you are truthful, you will be trusted."



Zoroastrianism

What help shall my soul expect from anyone,
In whom am I to put my trust . . .
But in the Right, in Thee, Wise Lord, and the Best Mind [Providence]?



Judaism

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble; and those who know Thy name put their trust in Thee,
for Thou, O Lord, hast not forsaken those who seek Thee.



Christianity

If one trusts in God, He will carry him through all hardship and troubles.
One should have complete confidence in God.
Even in persecution one should not falter, for God will guide him to his reward.



Islam

If God helps you, none can overcome you; but if He forsakes you, who then can help you after Him?
Therefore, in God let the believers put all their trust.

