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## John 1:1-14

“The Word became flesh and lived among us.” Possibly one of the most significant and memorable statements ever written.

The word became flesh, four words that change the universe.

No truth ever revealed confronts more, matters more, unsettles more than the thought that the pre-existent Son of God became human and made his dwelling among us.

These words couldn't be more relevant for us as we continue in lockdown, cut off from those we love – thankfully our God isn't locked down, He is with us. “The Word became flesh and lived, made his dwelling, among us.”

This is the great truth that sets Christianity apart from all of the other world religions. Our God hasn't remained remote and unapproachable, he's reached down and come to us in person.

C. S. Lewis calls this the central miracle of Christianity. The Incarnation - the word became flesh.

John wrote his gospel that we might believe that Jesus is the Messiah the son of God and that by believing we might have life in his name. He wants us to know just who Jesus is. John wants us to be clear that Jesus is not just a good man, a great teacher but He is God, God become man. Fully human fully divine. The word became flesh.

With that in mind John starts his gospel with words that echo right back to the book of Genesis. In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God.

While the gospels of Matthew and Luke tell us of the events of

that first Christmas John doesn't mention the Christmas story, he goes behind the scenes, he takes us right back to the beginning and gives us the theological meaning. Jesus is the foundation of the universe. The central fact of the Christian faith isn't a philosophy it's a person Jesus Christ.

### **1. Jesus is the eternal one, the word, logos**

This word logos that John uses would have held immediate resonances with both his Jewish and Greek audiences. The Jew would understand the logos as the expression of the creative power and will, and mind of God working from the very beginning in creation.

To the Greek listeners logos had a more philosophical meaning, the life force which keeps everything together in a world of change, bringing order, cohesion and purpose. Jesus is the eternal word, he has always been here, he's before time, holding all things together, the creator and sustainer of life. There never was a time when he was not. He was with God and he is God.

There's personality at the heart of everything and it's Jesus.

John wants us to see his book as the story of God the creator acting in a new way within his much-loved creation. It's about the way in which the story begun in Genesis reaches the climax the creator had always intended. And it happens through the Word. In Genesis chapter 1 the culmination is the creation of human beings made in God's image. In John 1 it's the arrival of the new human being the Word become flesh.

Jesus is the eternal one,

### **2. Jesus is the revealed Word**

John continues, "In him was life and that life was the light of all people." Jesus gives the life we need because he's the creator

and he is the light we need because he is the light of the world.

The Word is bringing into being the new creation in which God says once more, let there be light.

He reveals what God's like, and it's only in the light of Jesus that we can begin to see and understand the way things really are. Jesus is like a window into God and the world, he lets us see God in an entirely new way He reveals his heart and mind and will. We discover just how much God loves us because he's revealed himself to us in the way we could understand, by becoming one of us. The eternal one has made himself known.

We live in a confused and confusing world. John declares its only in the light of Jesus that we begin to understand life and see things the way they really are. No matter how dark the world may seem at times, the light of Christ can't be extinguished. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The word became flesh - God is with us in our world and in our lives in the good and the bad, our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows.

### **3. Jesus is the promised one**

The prophets foretold that one like Elijah would come to herald the Messiah. John the Baptist was the connection back to the Old Testament prophets. He paved the way for the Messiah announcing that the Lord had come. He came to bear witness to the light and prepare the people to receive the Light.

### **4. Jesus is the rejected one**

Jesus knew rejection, John reminds us, he was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own

did not receive him

It's not all comfort and joy there was, and still is incomprehension, rejection and denial. The true light has come but tragically many people still prefer darkness yet wonderfully to those who receive, who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. God makes himself available for our acceptance or our rejection in Jesus, but the promise is to all and for those who receive him He gives the privilege of adoption into his family. Because he is the saving one,

### **5. Jesus is the saving one**

He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

He came to the earth to rescue us, to save us because we can't save ourselves from sin and its consequences, he came to this earth to save us because we can't save ourselves from our human frailty and weakness. We don't need to look very far to see the effects of sin in our world, to see what happens when people ignore God and do their own thing.

Jesus came as the light that shines in the darkness. If we could save ourselves there would've been no need for Jesus to be born, there would've been no need for him to live on earth, die on the cross and rise again. No matter how good we think we are we can't put ourselves right with God, only Jesus can do that.

As those other well-known words from John remind us, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Here's the best news in all the world - God deeply cares for us. He made a plan to save us from our sin and ourselves. He wants to change our lives and give us a life worth living that will

ultimately result in eternal life. Because he is

## **6. Jesus is the Glorious one**

The Word became flesh and , lived, made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The God who made heaven and earth has entered time and space and history by becoming a man in Jesus Christ. He lived a perfect life. Gave us his perfect teaching, and example, died on the cross to bring us forgiveness and He rose victorious on that first Easter morning to give new life to all who believe in Him. Christ in us the hope of glory!

Its perhaps difficult in the middle of the school run or the supermarket shop to remember that God is fulfilling the whole purpose of his creation. It is even more difficult to look at the news or read the papers and believe that there's purpose to the world at all, let alone that it's in the process of being fulfilled.

Gods purpose for his world is in built from the moment of creation. We're created through our redeemer and redeemed through our creator so that we can share in the true life for which we were made, the life of god.

We need to capture John's vision of the cosmic Christ, as Paul did in those verses in Colossians we heard this morning , the Lord who fills the whole of creation, someone we can worship with all our being, who commands our allegiance and our attention.

At the heart of everything there's personality and there's purpose. life isn't random there's a plan and purpose until its closing scene, we need to keep that bigger vision to help us through now in these difficult days more than ever. Whatever

the circumstances we're facing now or in the years ahead we know that God is with us and he will bring us through.

**Pray**

The word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father only Son

Lord Jesus speak into the very depths of our being the great truth of who you are. Thank you for the privilege of knowing you, please help us to believe you, to love you, to trust you and by our lives bring you glory for your name sake. **Amen.**