### “What Child Is This?” Dec. 24

**John 18:37**

For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.

“What child is this?” Yes, that is the question. This is *really* asking, “what is the purpose of this special birth? When this child grows up, what will be his life’s work?” Basically it’s asking, “What is the purpose of the Incarnation?”

That’s the theological term for what is happening—the divine Son coming to live an earth life! We know that God knows everything, but here, the Son of God would know an earth life from the inside, from within a human body and everything that it could feel. He lived in a family, a culture, and a society, and experienced all the friendship, joy, and sorrow that people experience.

Jesus, in his life, not only revealed God to humankind, but also revealed humankind to God, or at least, showing what a human being *CAN* be. He came to bring beauty, goodness, and truth—*living* truth—to the earth, and to bring earth life closer to the heavenly life. He prayed “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on *earth* as it is in *heaven*” (Matt 6:10). It *should* be “as above, so below.” Our world should *not* be so barbaric, but should more closely resemble the heavenly life, where peace and learning and growth are expected and normal.

It is our job to be devoted to this peacemaking and truth-learning mission.

The Son of God brought heaven to earth, and he is slowly bringing earth to heaven, even if it doesn’t seem like it now. Eventually the day will come when we, as children of God, will all share our understanding of God, as *we* see God, and we will be warmly received. That means it will be a changed world, if our experience is respected that way. As we truly cherish the light that is within us, we become like stars shining in the darkness, bringing more light into the world. “On earth, as it is in heaven.” That is our goal, tonight, tomorrow, and every day in the New Year. It is what we pray for, and it is what we can help *bring about*, even with our small individual lights. Many small lights together are powerful. We all play a part in the illumination of the world.

Consider this: your part is essential to bring about this change. *You* are part of God’s family. As we follow Jesus’ example of bringing divinity into human life, we do bring heaven on to earth. This ability is a gift given freely to all.