

Convent 2016

I was this week reading an article by the Metropolitan of Thessaloniki, John Zizioulas, - a great eastern Orthodox environmentalist, he said: if the Church is to be truly the Church, she must incarnate Christ, and manifest the Kingdom of God in a particular place, and as a local event. The Church, thus, “must incarnate people, not ideas or beliefs”.

Since God the Father has freely willed His communion with the Son, Whom He has begotten, and has also brought forth the Spirit, He is person. It is because of this Trinitarian truth that we must address ourselves as persons. It is this theological concept, found only in Christianity, that calls us into a loving and personal relationship with our Creator, as co-creators. This personal relationship into which we've been invited by our loving and merciful God, Who walks among us, and who works mercy and love in creation through us.

Because Christianity is the only religion that teaches that God has come to dwell among us, we are called by His Holy Incarnation, to be agents of His incarnation. We are called to care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, defend the poor and homeless, preach the Gospel to all nations, and serve as peacemakers. We are called to be merciful, and to be quick to forgive. Our own forgiveness depends on us being willing to forgive other people. We are called to lay down our lives for others, and incarnate the mercy and love of our God, in every action, and in every place.

And because forgiveness and compassion have everything to do with the incarnation, the truth of just who God is, calls for us to reveal the love and mercy of our Suffering Saviour, Jesus Christ Himself, who was incarnated in our midst. Being saved by beliefs and ideas of the mind does not save us, and this is not what expresses our Christian faith. It is about the soul and being of the Person with whom we are encountering. How do you and I become whole once again, and be healed? By us encountering the loving Lord Who has come into our midst, and “walks among us”.