



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

January 3, 2024

Fr. Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S.

“Behold the Lamb of God” (John 1:29)

This year, during the season of Advent, I picked up a Celtic Prayer Book that has been on my shelf for years. I was (and am) reminded of how the Celts believed God was in all and with all – the earth, wind, sea, light – all of creation. It is a spirituality of being connected to one another and to all of creation. I can’t help but think that if we took that to heart, wars would end, and peace would reign.

But as Christians today, we separate the sacred from the profane – church on Sunday, war on Monday.

Today, we hear John the Baptist proclaiming, “Behold the Lamb of God.” John not only recognizes Jesus but proclaims Jesus as the Son of God. He proclaims Jesus as God’s Chosen One, as Christ. In Christ, we are all connected to one another and to all of creation. There is no sacred and profane; there is only the sacred. The world in which we live is God’s holy creation.

As Christians, we have just celebrated Christ Jesus born among us and in a few short days we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Jesus. We believe at our core that Jesus is not theoretical but rather the model of how we are to live.

And so we are challenged - does our life, our work shout “Behold the Lamb of God”? When we walk into our classroom, workplace, or home, are we proclaiming Christ Jesus by how we treat one another? Are we allowing the light of Christ to shine brightly in our own lives so that the light of Christ may live in the world? Do our words and actions bring light into darken places of the world? Are dividing lines being blurred as we recognize Christ in one another?

There is no doubt that there is darkness in our world. But the light of Christ dwelling among us within us to dispel that darkness.

Fr. Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S., is the Executive Director of the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR), a restorative justice hub in the Back of the Yards, Englewood community that began in 2002.

[To learn more about the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, click here.](#)

This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org