

Winter 2016

skyline

EARTHLINES

By Diane Pendola

Go and Do the Same

Dear Friends,

Christmas celebrations have passed. The Hanukkah candles have been lit. The light is lengthening toward a new year. I woke this morning from half-dream with these words: *Darkness recedes from the advance of even the smallest candle*. I was reminded of the words from John's gospel: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

I do not call myself a Christian because you will think you know what a Christian is and it will mean something different to you than it does to me.



Perhaps labeling is our first separation from the originating Word, the Word of St. John's prologue which John calls,

The true light that enlightens every person.

John also says,

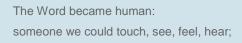
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

The Word became flesh—

Not theology or philosophy,
not doctrinal formulas or scientific theories,
not mathematical equations or even
artistic creations but flesh—

A human body who eats and drinks, enjoys and hurts, loves and hates.

Flesh that feels,
that knows
the press of darkness,
the brunt of principalities and powers,
the bite of pain,
the immensity of human suffering
the conspiracy of human selfishness
the crucifixion wrought by human corruption.





someone who could love and be loved, who could awaken love in our tender hearts.

This Light, incarnated in a man called Jesus, actively sought the hidden, the lost, the broken and brokenhearted, the love-less and the abandoned.

He touched their flesh, looked into their eyes, heard their stories felt their pain, and darkness was no longer dark because light was there.

Perhaps we should leave off labeling: separating reality into us and them, this and that, good and bad.

We might return to our senses, to our bodies, to our human hearts where the Word abides and lives as love,

and go and do the same as that man did.

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