

Advent Readings Day 3

God, the father, looked over all he had made and said, "Let us make mankind in our own image, after our own likeness." The Spirit of God was there, and Jesus, by whom all things came into existence. So they made man in their image. Not so much the physical form and glory of smoke, fire, rainbows, and mighty thunders, but something more profound. Mankind was made to be eternal. To endure.

The father took the dirt, molding and shaping it as he saw fit. The man Adam was lifeless, but only for a moment. God, the father, breathed his breath, his very spirit, into the clay, and Adam became a living being. God, the creator, had spoken all things prior to life but had, in the case of humanity, formed him with his very hands. So it is true that you and I were knit together in our mother's wombs. Our bones formed and curdled in the mystery of life. Our hearts are beating by the very grace and mercy of God, the maker.

But he wasn't finished. God put the man to sleep and took a rib from his side. From that singular bone, God formed the woman, the very source of God's divine help to man. He gave this couple dominion over the rest of creation and the high and holy task of multiplying and filling the earth. But the father wasn't concerned with population and the growing race of mankind. God wanted his image to spread through the earth. There was the aim and intent that as people multiplied and spread across the vastness of creation, so too would spread the image of the very one who had made all things.

Adam and Eve were given their place in the story of God. They were the beginning of all his works, the first ones to bear the image of the holy God. The two together are a glorious representation of the one who exists from of old, God almighty, Son, and Spirit.