

“We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.”

So begins the Christian Church’s first confession about who Jesus Christ is. It is very lofty, deep and basically says that Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God the Father, Almighty Maker of heaven and earth by the power of the Holy Spirit became human by birth from Mary. This Jesus who walked the earth, lived and died was fully God and fully human. He was not a man who became spiritual to the point of becoming God nor was he a man who had instead of a human mind and spirit, the mind and Spirit of God, nor was he simply God appearing to be human. This Jesus was the Son of God become human. In him all things God and all things human unite, become one.

Oops, I am still speaking in terms of lofty theology. Let me try again. God has revealed himself to us as the man Jesus Christ. If we want to know what the nature and character of God is like, then we must take a good look at this Jesus because as this man God has revealed himself to us in a way we can understand. Even that’s a bit theological.

Well, here goes another attempt. God came into this world to begin to put it to rights through pregnancy and the violence, pain, and fear of labor and birth as a vulnerable little baby who needed to be fed and protected and parented – loved. Well, that might have been how it went. I like the song “Away in a Manger”, but it’s a little idyllic – “The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, the little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.” I can’t buy that. How else is a baby supposed to express its needs and discomforts than crying. You kind of get the idea that Jesus was a perfect baby and never had any needs or discomforts.

Dana and I had a little baby this year. We affectionately call him Lord William of Caledon. Yes, he’s vulnerable and need lots of care and attention. Yet, he has no trouble letting the knaves know he wants something. What that something might be, well, who knows? My experience of little Lords is that as soon they arrive and a little bit beforehand here they rule the roost. Little Lord Jesus is right. As soon as he came forth by the love he demanded of his parents, self-sacrificing love, Little Lord Jesus began to set the world right.

I’ve been pondering the past few months this whole idea of God having become human in the human way, as a baby, and as a baby began to reveal himself to humanity. From the moment William was born I could not keep my eyes off of him. He is mesmerizing to me. Such is the beauty, the love, the bond of loving fellowship that is God that lives in Christian fellowship.

William has also placed a huge demand on Dana and me, and not just us, but our families and friends. His presence in our lives has brought about a radical change. We can no longer go and do as we want. There is now a little Lord in our lives who must be loved and raised. Such it is with the Little Lord Jesus. His presence in our lives, indeed, his presence in human history has required a radical change of us all.

Babies have a way of communicating their needs if you just pay attention to them and listen to them. They make different noises for different reasons. If you listen and watch they will get the need across. So it is with God, God is constantly speaking to us. Speaking the word of his self-revelation in Jesus Christ.

On a more humorous side, God in his self-revelation to us in Jesus Christ teethed, had diaper rash, breast feed, belched award winning belches, broke wind whenever and wherever it happened, smeared his food all over his face, and screamed like James Brown feeling good. Then there was the time William learned how to go “bhhp”. He’d wake up in the morning and as soon as he realized he was awake, the “bhhp”-ing would begin. Every chance he got he practiced his knew ability. All the way to church one morning he sat in his car seat “bhhp”-ing away. It made me think of Mary walking through town with Jesus strapped to her and the whole way he’s drooling and “bhhp”-ing, and people would look at him and smile and Mary would think, “Should I tell them, he’s God.”

Finally there’s the smile, whenever Dana and I walk into the room the little guy just lights up. I am awed because I know there is nothing I have done to deserve that smile. That’s the way God is. God smiles at us with the joy of a baby seeing its parents. This smile, this joy, this love is the foundation of God’s disposition towards us for it is written, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.” Amen.