



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.



The Word became human:  
someone we could touch, see, feel, hear;

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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