

Arrival of Love

Kenneth Tanner

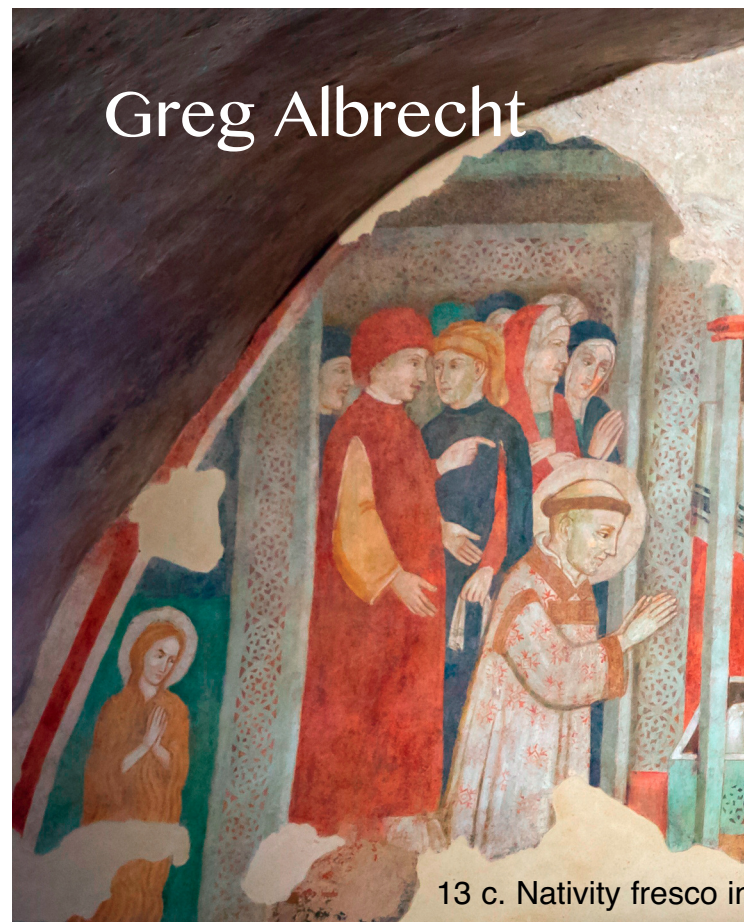
It is a great poverty to imagine that God takes a human body only that he might die. We cannot reduce the Incarnation in this way. If in Jesus Christ the Creator becomes what he makes, then God has bestowed on human flesh unimaginable dignity.

At the heart of this movement down to the creature is an unfathomable (and in human terms, impossible) love. We cannot become what we make. But God decides to become nothing in the universe but human. When the Son takes flesh from Mary, the most intimate connection is made between the divine life and human nature.

God does not become what he does not love. God does not become what he hates. God becomes what he makes and this is a love and a solidarity exceeded only by God's willingness to die also for what he makes. We must come to understand the infinite divine love involved in God becoming human. All theologies that do not marinate in this mystery will distort the Incarnation and the Cross, and will give us a false image of God and a false image of humanity.

The image of God and the image of humanity is the incarnate God, Jesus, nailed to wood. □

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Greg Albrecht

13 c. Nativity fresco in

A pastor was invited to give the guest sermon at a town several hours away. He drove up Saturday afternoon, intending to spend the night in a hotel and be rested for the Sunday morning service. Before he checked into his hotel, he noticed some letters he had placed on the front seat of the car. Some were urgent and needed to be mailed.

He had no idea where the post office was since he'd never visited this town before, but on the way to his hotel, he saw a ten-year-old boy riding his bicycle. The pastor stopped his car and asked the boy for directions. After the young boy told him how to get to the post office, the pastor told him that he should invite his parents to the Sunday service, because he would tell everybody how to get to the kingdom of heaven.

The young boy looked at him long and hard, then said, "How can anyone trust your directions to the kingdom of heaven—you don't even know the way to the post office?"

Speaking of directions, here are **four road signs that direct our steps toward the kingdom of heaven.** They won't get you to the post office,