

# For Such a Time as This

## A Daily Devotional

### Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024



From 1 John 1:

**That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.**

A simple affirmation from *A Brief Statement of Faith* of our own denomination speaks to the truth revealed to us in the opening words of the Gospel of John:

**We trust in Jesus Christ  
fully human, fully God.**

The concept is not new with the twentieth-century confession; the Nicene Creed made the very same formulation in a reverse order: ‘fully God, fully man.’ The affirmation is at the center of our faith: we believe that Jesus of Nazareth, this historical figure, was and is God for us and with us in this world. Jesus is the incarnation of God’s very presence and, further, is understood as the second person of the Trinity. The Son of God is not a creation of God, but rather is God, fully present with us and with all humankind.

William Placher, Presbyterian theologian who contributed to the writing of *A Brief Statement*, commented in an essay about this particular portion of the statement:

**These few words contain the scandal of the gospel. Israel and the church are commanded to put their trust in *none other than God*. Should they then trust in Jesus Christ? That question goes right to the heart of the good news that Jesus proclaimed, the good news of what was being inaugurated in his coming. He is not just the proclaimer of the good news – his identity as ‘the coming one’ for which Israel looked is part of the proclamation.**

Placher was so insightful, allow me to conclude this devotion with a final thought from him:

**The eternal Word became flesh ‘for us and for our salvation.’ The aim and goal of God’s living among us as a human is to deliver, restore, and heal the human condition. The incarnation is God’s establishing solidarity with humanity, not just to comfort persons, but actively to deliver them.**

**Prayer for the Day: (From the *Common Book of Worship*)**

**Eternal God, high and holy, when we worship, let us worship gladly; when we study let us learn your truth. Amen.**

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