

"The days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her **firstborn** Son.... Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is **born** to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a **Babe** wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." (Luke 2:6-12)

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only **begotten** of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:10-14)

"**The symbolism of birth [or nativity is] reformation.** When we are being reborn or regenerated by the Lord, **each and every new thing that we receive is a birth [or nativity].**" (Secrets of Heaven 1255)

"The meaning of 'nativity' or 'generation' [is] **the spiritual element of love.**" (Secrets of Heaven 3026)

"The meaning of 'nativity' [is] **truth which derives from good**, for all truth is **born** from good and has no other origin." (Secrets of Heaven 4070)

"**The Lord, then, was born like any other person and had weaknesses like any other person....** In order to conquer evil by his own strength, therefore — which no human ever was or ever will be able to do — and become the sole embodiment of uprightness, the Lord wished to be born like any other person. Otherwise being born would have been of no use to the Lord." (Secrets of Heaven 1573.3,7)

"**In the process of taking on a human manifestation, God followed his own divine design....** Now, because God came down, and because he is the design, there was no other way for him to become an actual human being than **to be conceived, to be carried in the womb, to be born**, to be brought up, and to acquire more and more knowledge so as to become intelligent and wise. Therefore in his human manifestation he was an infant like any infant, a child like any child, and so on with just one difference: he completed the process more quickly, more fully, and more perfectly than the rest of us do.... The Lord's life followed this path because the divine design is for people to prepare themselves to accept God; and as they prepare themselves, God enters them as if he were coming into his own dwelling and his own home." (True Christianity 89)

"Since there is a constant correspondence within human beings between the stages we go through physically and the stages we go through spiritually, it follows that **we go through something analogous to being conceived, carried in the womb, born, and brought up.** This explains why the statements in the Word that relate to physical birth symbolize aspects of our spiritual birth that have to do with goodness and truth.... Since physical birth in the Word symbolizes spiritual birth, and spiritual birth comes from the Lord, he is called our Maker and the one who delivered us from the womb.... This is why people who have received things that are good and true from the Lord are called 'children of God' and 'those who are born of God.'" (True Christianity 583)

"Nativity"

December 5, 2021

Rev. Solomon Keal

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"Please join us on Zoom at 11:00am Sunday for a discussion."

Informal Service Pastor: Rev. Solomon Keal

Music Director: Graham Bier

Musicians: Song Leader- Lori Odhner

Singers- Katie Odhner, Julie Conaron, John Odhner

Keyboard- Shawn Rose

Sound Technician - Keith Genzlinger

Livestreaming - Tirah Keal

"Heavenly traits are infused in us principally at the stage of childhood, from infancy up to adolescence. They are not infused along with any knowledge, because they filter in from the Lord and affect us before we have any idea what love is, or what an emotion is, as can be seen from the state of babies and then of children.... **Since the Lord was born like any other person, he was also led into heavenly capacities in orderly stages, from childhood to adolescence, and later into knowledge.**" (Secrets of Heaven 1450)

"It is well known that **a person's soul begins in the mother's ovum**, and is after that developed in her womb, and is there surrounded with a tiny body, which indeed is such that by means of it the soul is able to function properly in the world into which it is born. A similar situation exists when a person is born again, that is, when they are regenerated. The new soul which they acquire at that time is an end which has good in view. This **end in view** has its beginnings in the rational, where first of all it is so to speak in the ovum, and is after that developed so to speak in the womb. The tiny body with which that soul is surrounded is the natural, and the good there comes to be of such a nature that it acts in obedience to the soul's ends in view. The truths there are like fibers in the body, for it is from good that truths take shape. From this it is clear that a person's reformation is imaged by the formation of them in the womb. And if you are willing to believe it, it is also celestial good and spiritual truth from the Lord that are shaping them and at that time endowing them with power that enables them to receive that good and that truth gradually." (Secrets of Heaven 3570.4)

"In the state of infancy that a person passes through when being regenerated spiritual things are present in **potentiality**, for spiritual life emerges, as if from an egg, out of each consecutive age. The phase of infancy is so to speak the egg for that of childhood; the phase of childhood is so to speak the egg for that of adolescence and youth; and this phase is as it were the egg for that of adult years. Thus the person is so to speak **repeatedly experiencing birth [or nativity].**" (Secrets of Heaven 4378.2)