

The Image of the Invisible God

February 2, 2025

Why is God invisible?

Reasons Biblical, metaphysical, and moral

But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live.” Exodus 33:20

“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath...” Deuteronomy 5:8

What does it mean to say that Jesus is the image of the invisible God?

“No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.” John 1:18

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”

Colossians 1:15-20

Can we paint the image of God?

The iconoclast controversy

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple by Fra Angelico

How do we see Jesus now?

Scripture, prayer, sacraments, the church, the poor, and all of these by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us...” 1 John 1:1-2

Although you have not seen him, you love him...” 1 Peter 1:8

Everything Holds Together

By Malcom Guite

Everything holds together, everything,
From stars that pierce the dark like living sparks,
To secret seeds that open every spring,
From spanning galaxies to spinning quarks,
Everything holds together and coheres,
Unfolding from the center whence it came.
And now that hidden heart of things appears,
The first-born of creation takes a name.

And shall I see the one through whom I am?
Shall I behold the one for whom I'm made,
The light in light, the flame within the flame,
Eikon tou theou, image of my God?
He comes, a little child, to bless my sight,
That I might come to him for life and light.