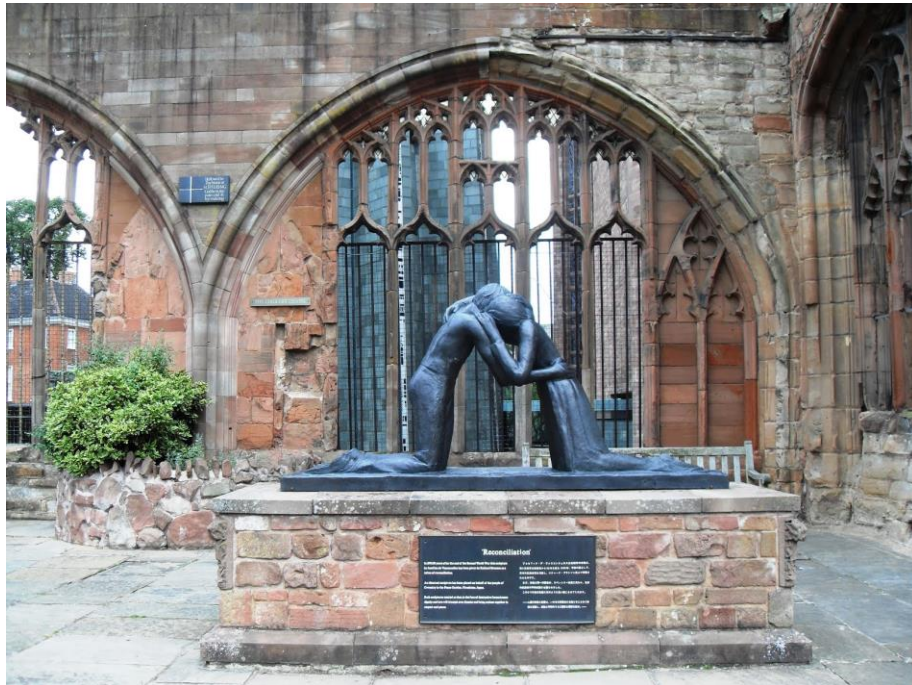


Who am I becoming in Christ?



"The sculpture was originally conceived in the aftermath of the War. Europe was in shock, people were stunned. I read in a newspaper about a woman who crossed Europe on foot to find her husband, and I was so moved that I made the sculpture. Then I thought that it wasn't only about the reunion of two people but hopefully a reunion of nations which had been fighting."¹

"When I encountered this sculpture entitled *Reconciliation* my thoughts were directed not to the past horrors of war but the possibility of what could be. Next to these ruins is a beautiful new cathedral dedicated to the pursuit of peace and reconciliation. Even in our darkest moments we are inextricably connected to something much deeper that helps us envision a future we could have never imagined."²

¹ "Sculptor Unveils 'Reconciliation'", *News & Views*, Brandford University, November 2004

² Ron Harmon (*visit to Coventry during a 2014 Leading Congregations in Mission Retreat*)



Coventry Cathedral³ is one of the world's oldest religious-based centers for reconciliation.

Following the destruction of the Cathedral in 1940, Provost Howard made a commitment not to revenge, but to forgiveness and reconciliation with those responsible.

Using a national radio broadcast from the cathedral ruins on Christmas Day 1940 he declared that when the war was over he would work with those who had been enemies “to build a kinder, more Christ-child-like world.”

It was this moral and prophetic vision which led to Coventry Cathedral’s development as a world Centre for Reconciliation, which over the years has provided inspiration and support to many Christians addressing ongoing conflict in contemporary society.

Excerpt from The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings

“What does it mean that we are made of God rather than simply by God? In part it means that the wisdom of God is deep within us, deeper than the ignorance of what we have done. It is to say that the creativity of God is deep within us, deeper than any barrenness in our lives or relationships, deeper than any endings in our families or our world. Within us— as a sheer gift of God— is the capacity to bring forth what has never been before, including what has never been imagined before. Above all else, as Julian⁴ says, the love-longings of God are at the heart of our being. 2 We and all things have come forth from the One. Deep within us are holy, natural longings for oneness, primal sacred drives for union. We may live in tragic exile from these longings, or we may have spent a whole lifetime not knowing how to truly satisfy them, but they are there at the heart of our being, waiting to be born afresh.”⁵

What does it mean that you are made of God? How does this change how you see yourself and others?

What do you *see and experience* in the ruins of the cathedral? In the sculpture?

How is the Holy Spirit uncovering your natural longing for oneness? Where is it leading you?

³ <http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/wpsite/our-reconciliation-ministry/>

⁴ Julian of Norwich 1342-1416

⁵ Newell, John Philip (2014-06-06). *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings* (Kindle Locations 77-84). SkyLight Paths Publishing. Kindle Edition.