Christ, Evolution and Emergent Wholeness
“The very name of God is a cosmological notion.” (R. Panikkar)

There is no cosmos without God and no God without cosmos. The divine is never alone or by itself because it has no ‘self,’ it is a dimension of the Whole.

Name “God” = depth of existence (“I AM” cf. Exod. 3:14)
God is love; Love is relational and personal

Relational

- God is self-communicative; God can only be in union with another.
  Kenotic

- The self-donation of God’s love is alluring (Eros / Agape)
  Attractive
“God is the newest thing there is, 
the youngest thing there is. 
God is the beginning and 
if we are united to God 
we become new again.”

Meister Eckhart
The ‘self’ of God is in the ‘self-emptying’ of God, becoming “element” and thus drawing all things through love into fullness of being.

God is not found through opposition to matter (anti–matter) or independent of matter (extra–matter) but through matter (trans–matter).”

We take hold of God in the finite.

“God is completely other than the world and yet unable to dispense with it.”
“Creation” is located not at the “beginning” of the world, or in the past, but “up ahead.”

Creation is the outflow of union, the process of gathering scattered elements into more unified wholes ➔ Up Ahead

To be created is to be related. Creation is not an act but a relationship or the act of being related.
Teilhard proposed that union with God “must be effected by passing through and emerging from matter.”

Thus he writes: “I can be saved only by becoming one with the universe”
“God’s fate is in and with the world”
God is:

Depth → Love

Evolver → Omega

Present → Up Ahead
CHRIST IN EVOLUTION

What is the meaning of Jesus Christ in a universe that is still coming to be?
God is love and love is personal

God ➔ Incarnation

The ever deepening union of God and world in love is the emergence of Christ.
“Our Christology is still expressed in exactly the same terms as those which three centuries ago could satisfy those whose outlook on the cosmos it is now physically impossible for us to accept. . . . What we now have to do without delay is to modify the position occupied by the central core of Christianity—and this precisely in order that it may not lose its illuminative value.”

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin
What is the Reason for Christ?

**Garden of Eden**
- Sin
- Fall
- Need for Redemption

**God is Love**
- Christ is first in God’s intention to Love
- Christ symbolizes unity in Love

**Mythic Consciousness**

**Mystic Consciousness**
Incarnation – Creation

“In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God and the Word was God... Through him all things came to be.” John 1:1–3

- Cosmic order is a vast symbol in which God speaks God’s own mystery into that which is not Godself.

- **All creation is incarnation**

- The world receives the self–gift of God—the Word—into its inner depth and brings it to completion.
The Cosmic Christ

Incarnation = act of cosmic completion.

- Christ is not ordered to us but we to Christ.
- The whole creation is made for Christ
- Christ does not save us *from* the world.
- Christ is the reason *for* the world.
God “speaks” the depths of his heart in the rich diversity of creation in and thru the Word.

Each being is a “little word” of God.

The world is like a crystal lamp illumined by the light of divine love from within.

The process of evolution is a “Christogenesis,” a ‘coming to be’ of Christ.
Matter unfolds into spirit/consciousness

Evolutionary cosmos

Consciousness

Future of Earthly Life

JOSEPH
Christ and Consciousness

- John Cobb – with Jesus emerges a new structure of existence; a new consciousness.

- In Jesus we find the Hebraic ethically responsible individual and the intense experience of God’s immediacy.

- Faith in God liberates individual to accept the full implications of one’s freedom and responsibility.
Jesus enters the evolutionary trajectory bringing all *newness* in himself, bringing the needed transformation.

the event of Christ brings a new directionality into evolution, at its culmination in the human person.

A *power of newness* comes into the human person, into the heart and mind: a new *creativity* that is divine and human at once.

new ‘centration’ emerges, a lateral convergence.
Jesus the WholeMaker

- Restores to health
- Forgives
- Merciful
- Compassionate
- Reconciles

Salvation: **A HEALTHY LIFE FOR A HEALTHY COSMOS**

Catholicity = the virtue of wholemaking
Jesus establishes the pattern of evolutionary life but this pattern of life is to generate new life; out of the old is born the new.

Life in an emergent evolutionary universe is always moving forward toward greater union and complexity.
Death and Resurrection of Jesus

- Death – energy taken up anew and used toward new creation. Death is not end but fullness of life

- Release of Spirit for New Creation up ahead

- Jesus Christ in his grace–filled human reality, has become a power shaping the whole cosmos.

- the risen Christ is in all cosmic reality drawing it toward its consummation
Quantum physics and evolution help us understand the Resurrection as reconstituting a new field of activity and energy.

The death of Jesus forms a new matrix of divine–created energy in the cosmos.

This new theandric (divine–created) energy field is the risen Body of Christ.
What happens in Jesus is anticipation of future of humanity and of cosmos. Not annihilation of creation but its radical transformation thru power of God's life-giving Spirit.
The Risen Christ is the cosmos in a personal center of love.

Jesus the Christ symbolizes the capacity for all human persons and creation to be united and transformed in God.
“When the vessel of his body was shattered in death, Christ was poured out over the cosmos: he became actually, in his very humanity, what he had always been in his dignity, the innermost center of creation.”

Karl Rahner
Resurrection is the beginning of the transformation of the world.

Breakthrough to a new level of consciousness. . a new basis from which to understand human destiny.

New sense of what it means to belong to cosmos.
Christ in Evolution

- Creation
- Incarnation
- Redemption
- Resurrection

Single act of divine love?
The Cost of New Life

Evolution

Suffering

Death

New Life
Earth is not a training ground for heaven. It is, rather, the very place where heaven unfolds.

Heaven is not another world but this world clearly seen.
Christianity is a religion of evolution, a religion of the future.
Jesus is an evolutionary step forward in the development of humankind.

But evolution does not stop. It is an ongoing process, symbolized by the Christ event:

“Amen, I say to you, the one who believes in me will also do the works I do and, fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12).
Through baptism we are immersed into cosmic evolution.

We are called to be evolvers of Christ or Christogenic evolvers.
The Eucharist marks the **beginning** of a new future.

Those who participate in the Eucharist are asked to **re-member** the death and resurrection of Jesus,

not as a past event but as the power of the future.
A Eucharistic community is a new energy field, a new pattern of relatedness.
Evolution is Christ–in–the making

Convergence
Complexity
Consciousness
The Christian is one who is connected through the heart to the whole of life, attuned to the deeper intelligence of nature, and called forth irresistibly by spirit to creatively express his or her gifts in the evolution of self and the world.
Biological evolution has not ended with us.

We are part of an ongoing cosmic process that demands our commitment to it.

*Christogenesis*: Christ is the One who is coming to be.
The mystery of Christ and our human lives are intertwined.

Our healing and wholeness is necessary for the fullness of Christ or unity in love.

W are to “christify” or “amorize” the world.
“To be a Christian does not mean to be religious in a particular way, to make something of oneself (a sinner, penitent or saint) on the basis of some method or other, but to be a human. . .the human that Christ creates in us.

It is not the religious act that makes the Christian, but participation in the sufferings of God in secular life.” = evolution
If love is truly the heart of cosmic life, then Life can only flourish in an evolutionary universe through new patterns of love/new relatedness.
Teilhard de Chardin spoke of Christianity as a religion *of* evolution.

But Christianity (like all world religions) is *in* evolution.

Teilhard said Christ cannot be limited to any one religion.
Teilhard realized is the *stasis of religion* is the *stifling of evolution*.

“No longer is it simply a religion of individual and of heaven, but a religion of mankind and of the earth--that is what we are looking for at this moment, as the oxygen without which we cannot breathe.”
CHRISTOGENESIS

COSMOGENESIS

BIOGENESIS

NOOGENESIS

NOOGENESIS
The noogenic Christ is “a general convergence of religions upon a universal personal center of unity who fundamentally satisfies all religions.”

Technology plays a key role in evolutionary convergence, enabling the emergence of global mind and collective consciousness.
Christianity (and all world religions) is in evolution
and in order to remain itself
Christ
as personal center of the evolving cosmos
must become something new.

We are wholes w/in wholes,
Persons w/in persons
religions w/in religions
Judaism

Evolution

XNTY

Islam
Technology

Ultrahumanity

Amorization

Christ

not something but someone in evolution
Reflection

- Who is Christ for you?
- What do you hope for?
- What draws you forward to more being and consciousness?

What can you dare to imagine?
What can you dare to live?