

## *Jesus as self-giving love*

*Transcendence is a hand reached out to those close to us, to the human community, to all living creation, to nature, to the universe. [It] is a deeply and joyously experienced need to be in harmony with what we ourselves are not, what we do not understand... But with what we are nevertheless linked, because, together with us, all this constitutes a single world. Transcendence is the only real alternative to extinction.*

Vaclav Havel

Karl Rahner understands Jesus as the self-communication of God to the universe and the self-transcendence of the universe to God. It is as if God says “YES” to us, and to all that is made, and we, in Jesus, say “YES” to God. Jesus offers us a way of being in the world – a way of self-transcendence - for the sake of the other. This is the paradox of human life. We flourish by giving ourselves away.

Being Christian is more than being kindly. It is following the genuinely authentic human being exemplified in Jesus of Nazareth. This is why we imaginatively engage with the stories of Jesus, for then we can discover that Jesus is the very truth of our existence.

Jesus shows us that we are in fact, as human beings, Christologically and Paschally structured. Such an intimate experience and graced knowledge of his truth – which is our truth - enables us to lovingly commit ourselves to his way.

*God clears a space for us “where the act of God and human reality are allowed to belong together without rivalry or fear, the place where Jesus is.*

Rowan Williams

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Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.

Contact: [juliancentre@gmail.com](mailto:juliancentre@gmail.com)