

DID YOU KNOW?



In thinking about Christmas—about the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem—you discover that this is a tender God who is with you. The Eastern Church has always imagined the birth of Jesus in a cave, which stands for the middle of the cosmos and for the maternal womb of the earth. When God becomes human, then heaven fertilizes the earth, and the earth takes on God like a mother's womb. Everything you see now around you is touched, made holy, and healed by the God become human. This world is never without God. He is the Emmanuel who accompanies you in all your ways, just as Jesus has promised you. He is also the Emmanuel who is with the cosmos and who permeates the world with His love. The whole world can now become a home for you. The world is no longer foreign and distant from God. Everything in you and around you is breathing in God, since God himself became human in Jesus Christ and is now incarnate in this world.

Anselm Grün, OSB, *A Time of Fulfillment*, p. 61