Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 30

1Kings 3:5,7-12

Psalm 119

Romans 8:28-30

Matthew 13:44-52

Let’s get back to our mind games or rather our mind experiments in religion.

Because of advances in science these past one hundred years, it might do us wise to reflect and rethink our approach to God and us. Quantum theory has redefined reality for us. Part of our reality is our theology. Can theology also stand some re-defining?

For our mind experiment, let us say that God is energy. It is not a tautology, however. It isn’t true forwards and backwards. I say ‘God is energy’. I don’t say ‘energy is God’ because I’m not the CEO of an oil company.

So I say God is energy - the same kind of energy found in the lighting of a light bulb or the explosion of an atomic bomb. I chose those examples because of the particle of light that is called a photon. The photon is a packet of light that is full of energy but has no weight because it has no resting mass. When you turn the light on, it is instantaneous (except for some fluorescents or CFLs). Light is usually at the speed of light. The light energy is super quick and can be super powerful, for example the laser light which is packets of energy lined up all in a row which laser can penetrate and/or burn.

Can we say God is energy and God can be displayed as light? Yep. The bible tells me so. Next weekend we celebrate the Transfiguration where we hear from the bible that the face of Jesus shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

The Gospel of John is called the Gospel of Light. The writer of the gospel talks about John the Baptist who came to “bear witness to the light…the true light that enlightens every man.” (John 1: 6-9) Jesus himself says, ”I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) He also says, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5)

What does this God – Light – Energy mean for us now, using the bible as a reference?

"God who said, Let the light shine out of darkness, has also made the light shine in our hearts to radiate and to make known the Glory of God, as it shines in the face of Christ."

- 2 Corinthians 4,6

"You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Behave as children of light;"

- Ephesians 5,8

"The fruits of light are kindness, justice and truth in every form."

- Ephesians 5,9

"You are a chosen race, a community of priest-kings, a consecrated nation, a people God has made his own to proclaim his wonders. For he called you from your darkness to his own wonderful light."

- 1 Peter 2,9

"But, in a way, I give it as a new commandment for it was indeed new in Jesus Christ and must be so in you as well, because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines."

- 1 John 2,8

We have it in our creed:

I believe in the One Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.

We have it in our Eucharistic prayer:

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep…welcome them into the light of your face….

So in our mind experiment we find the bible, our creed, and our liturgy describe God as light. Light is energy. So I say God is energy.

Our next adventure is Physics and Consciousness. You can look it up on your computer. Science and religion meet and kiss. Our God is a God of energy in our bible and in the quantum world.

As a postscript, I borrow this mind bender from physicist David Asher:

The beginning of the Gospel according to John:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Word means the vibration of waves which is energy. So what if we substitute for the word Word with a capital ‘W’, with the word Energy with a capital ‘E’?