



Icon: Christ Pantocrator

Resource 3.10



Egg tempera on carved wood, 2001, Athens, Greece

This icon gets its title from nine references to God and Christ in the book of Revelation is most commonly translated as almighty or all-powerful. The term Pantocrator is a compound word which is formed from two Greek words: strength or power, and generally is considered to be the icon to which we turn in the church for a vision of God as omnipotent. Understanding God as the sustainer and ruler of all things is a powerful image and is a tremendous source of comfort for those who have chosen to take leadership roles in the work of project resource and its issues of resource development in stewardship and in membership.

John, Chapter One – the Prologue

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Prayer

Ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, you have given us the earth, and all that is in it, as a great gift. Give us also the gift of gratitude so that we may see what we have - all that you have given to us for you are the ruler and giver of all things. As we lead on issues of stewardship and gratitude in your church, give us a deep awareness of your presence and your power. When we face resistance or fear about stewardship or money within ourselves, from power structures within the church, or from individuals who want to restrict the conversation around giving and evangelism; provide us with the great and arresting image of your power and glory so that we might not be afraid. *Amen.*