

# DEEP INCARNATION

*God's Redemptive Suffering  
with Creatures*

DENIS EDWARDS

ORBIS  BOOKS  
[www.orbisbooks.com](http://www.orbisbooks.com)

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at [www.maryknollsociety.org](http://www.maryknollsociety.org).

---

Copyright © 2019 by Denis Edwards

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

---

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Edwards, Denis, 1943– author.

Title: Deep incarnation : God's redemptive suffering with creatures / Denis Edwards.

Description: Maryknoll, NY : Orbis Logo, [2019] | Series: Duffy lectures in global Christianity | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Description based on print version record and CIP data provided by publisher; resource not viewed.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019003405 (print) | LCCN 2019009824 (ebook) | ISBN 9781608337941 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626983304 (pbk.)

Subjects: LCSH: Incarnation—History of doctrines. | Creation. | Salvation—Christianity.

Classification: LCC BT220 (ebook) | LCC BT220 .E39 2019 (print) | DDC 231.7—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019003405>

# Contents

<i>Series Foreword: Duffy Lectures in Global Christianity</i> . . . . .	vii
<i>Richard Gaillardetz</i>	
<i>Preface</i> . . . . .	xi
<i>Niels Henrik Gregersen</i>	
<i>Introduction</i> . . . . .	xv
<b>1. Deep Incarnation in Recent Theology</b> . . . . .	1
Niels Gregersen on the Theology of Deep Incarnation . . . . .	1
Elizabeth Johnson . . . . .	5
Celia Deane-Drummond . . . . .	9
Christopher Southgate . . . . .	13
Richard Bauckham . . . . .	16
Gregersen: Refinements and Developments of Deep Incarnation . . . . .	20
<b>2. Irenaeus and the Earthly Incarnation of the Word</b> . . . . .	29
The One Down-to-Earth Economy of Creation and Salvation . . . . .	30
Incarnation and Recapitulation . . . . .	37
Creation's Transformation— The Kingdom of the Son . . . . .	43
God's Transcendent Greatness and God's Down-to-Earth Love . . . . .	47
Irenaeus and Deep Incarnation: Critical Differences, Resonances, and Insights . . . . .	52

<b>3. Athanasius on the Depths of the Incarnation . . . . .</b>	<b>55</b>
Athanasius's <i>On the Incarnation</i> . . . . .	55
Wisdom's Ways of Being with Creatures . . . . .	64
Deification . . . . .	67
Salvation Involves the Wider Natural World . . . . .	69
The Self-Humbling God Who Transcends	
Transcendence . . . . .	71
Athanasius and Deep Incarnation:	
Critical Differences, Resonances,	
and Insights . . . . .	77
<b>4. Karl Rahner on Incarnation in an</b>	
<b>Evolutionary World . . . . .</b>	<b>81</b>
The Unchanging God Changes in the	
Incarnation . . . . .	82
The Deep Reach of the Incarnation and	
the Cross . . . . .	84
Incarnation in an Evolutionary World . . . . .	89
Resurrection and the Transfiguration	
of the Whole Universe . . . . .	94
Extraterrestrials . . . . .	98
Rahner and Deep Incarnation: Critical	
Differences, Resonances, and Insights . . . . .	102
<b>5. The Cross: Sacrament of God's Redemptive</b>	
<b>Suffering with Creatures . . . . .</b>	<b>105</b>
The Holy Spirit Brings about the Incarnation . . . . .	106
Cosmic, Evolutionary, and Ecological	
Relationships as Constitutive of the	
Word Made Flesh . . . . .	110
God Can Be Said to Suffer with Suffering	
Creatures . . . . .	113
The Cross as Sacrament of God's Redemptive	
Suffering with Creatures . . . . .	117
Resurrection: A Promise of Healing and	
Fulfillment That Embraces All Creatures . . . . .	123
Deep Incarnation as Contribution to <i>Laudato Si'</i> . . . . .	128
<i>Index</i> . . . . .	133