

¶ God is a verb

Ted Danforth Jr.

God is a verb; He's not a noun,
one reads in Northrop Frye. A verb,
I imagine, in the future
potential imperfect tense: in
His ever becoming Himself.

Verbs are set in time and are
suspended in it; they are time.
Nouns are substances, or ideas,
or stand for them. They are without
apparent motion, standing still
like the hills and plains with verbs
like rivers flowing down them.
Nouns are the very dirt and soil
of the Earth, with its rocks and its mud,
its substance, standing under us,
the solid things of Creation.
Verbs are the water and the wind
flowing over it, through it, and
under it; acting upon it,
changing, altering, moving, and
eroding it. They are the force
of will, of God's will being done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

All is in motion, and nothing
Simply stands still, not even God
Who sets in motion the wheeling
Stars and wandering planets,
all ever expanding outward
from some point in time when it
began, the Big Bang, as we now
call our new creation myth.

And we live suspended in time;
we float, we drift in it, like fish
in water, or the birds in air.
And God is acting through it all.
Dissolved in time, like the salt in
the sea, He is instinct with
his own being and becoming,
existing in the Eternal Present.

The Past and Future are only
illusions of what we call Time;
and the Present if it were always
Present would not be Time
But Eternity and only
exists (as Augustine points out)
in its continually ceasing
to exist, like wave upon wave
crashing upon the sandy beach
or rock-bound shore of Ocean Sea,
as a surfer at sunset skims
the breaking, crumbling, foaming crest
riding the very edge of time
at each moment's living and dying.



Madonna with a child
Wieslaw Sadurski



ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 AT ROAD CHURCH, STONINGTON 7:00 p.m.

**GUEST PREACHER: THE REV. VALERIE KING
UNITED CHURCH OF STONINGTON**

Mark your calendars for Stonington's Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. This year, the service will be held at Road Church with The Rev. Valerie King of the United Church of Stonington, The Rev. Ron Lake of the Road Church, and from Calvary The Rev. Amjad Samuel and lay readers from each congregation. There will be traditional Thanksgiving hymns and special music by our "combined choirs".

*All are cordially welcome to the **WATCH HILL CHAPEL'S ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE**, Thurs., Nov. 26th, 10 a.m., Bluff Ave., Watch Hill. Preacher, The Rev. Hillary R. Bercovici. Offering will support the W.A.R.M. Shelter, the Living Supplies Closet, the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, and the Johnny Cake Center. Checks should be payable to the Watch Hill Chapel. Dress warmly; the Chapel is unheated.*