Early Images of Christ

In the earliest images, Jesus Christ was portrayed as a young man with short golden hair and no beard. Even though Jesus would have had a Middle-Eastern appearance, this youthful ‘golden’ portrayal was deliberate. The early artists were trying not to copy his human image but depict his divine image. The golden hair is a reflection of divine life and light. The Roman gods were often illustrated in this way and the early Christians kept within the traditions of the time.

Later Christian iconographers began to portray Christ in a way that integrated both the human and divine aspects of his being. Create a scrap book or journal of images of Christ describing what you see as either human or divine qualities in the imagery.