

April 29, Easter 5
Series Theme: Resurrection
Reflection Title: Questions
Acts 8:26-40
Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of God spoke to Philip and said, "Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the wilderness road." So Philip began his journey. It happened that an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage and was returning home. He was seated in his chariot reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

So when Philip ran up to it, he heard the eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. This was the passage of the scripture being read:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He ordered the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Second Reading ~ From Frederick Buechner

We are much involved, all of us, with questions about things that matter a good deal today, but will be forgotten by this time tomorrow — the immediate where's and when's and how's that face us daily at home and at work. At the same time, we tend to lose track of the questions about things that matter always, life-and-death questions about meaning, purpose, and value. To lose track of such deep questions as these is to risk losing track of who we really are in our own depths, and where we are really going.