

April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday

There You Will See Me

First Reading ~ Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary of Magdala came with Mary to inspect the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, and an angel of God descended from heaven, rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel's appearance was like lightning, with garments as bright as snow. The guards shook with fear and fell as though they were dead.

Then the angel spoke, addressing the women "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, who is no longer here. Jesus has been raised, exactly as it was foretold. Come and see the burial place. Then go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Jesus there. That is the message I have for you."

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell the other disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings! (Good Morning!)" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell the disciples to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Second Reading

*~ adapted from Father Richard Rohr in
Jesus: The Christ, The Coincidence of the Spiritual and the Material*

At the Resurrection.... Jesus moved from Jesus to Christ, which now includes in its sweep all of creation and even you and me. The texts all agree that this movement had a physical dimension to it, but it is a new kind of embodiment that is both of this world and yet not limited by it. Thanks to Einstein, we now know that matter and energy are convertible forces.

Whenever the material and the spiritual coincide, there is the Christ. Jesus accepted that full identity and walked it into history. He was fully human and fully divine at the same time. So now we can begin to imagine how they could coexist. The material and the spiritual are one, the human and the divine are forever, and the physical plumbed to its depth finds transcendence! The hiding place of God is also the place of revelation— here and now and everywhere. This is an utterly new notion, so much so that most of Christian history (Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Pentecostal) missed this major point entirely and lived in a split universe.

The mystery of Christ is revealed, and the Christ "comes again" whenever you are able to see or experience the spiritual and the material coexisting, in any moment, in any event, and in any person. God's hope for history seems to be that humanity will one day be able to recognize its dignity as the divine dwelling place, which it shares with the rest of creation. I don't know when it will happen or what it will look like to reach the tipping point- for the Christ Mystery to come to fullness. All I know is that this meaning, planted in the middle of things, was meant to give humanity both *direction* and immense *confidence*. I suspect "the Second Coming of Christ" happens whenever and wherever we allow this to be utterly true for us.