



*Earth as seen from Apollo 17 (final Apollo Mission) Taken December 7, 1972
First Selfie of the World ~ A Family Photo*

April 18, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter
All Over The World

Rev. Emma Chattin
Preaching

First Reading ~ *Luke 24:36-48*

While they were talking about this [the encounter on the Road to Emmaus], Jesus actually stood in the midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." In their panic and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." After saying this, he showed them the wounds. They were still incredulous for sheer joy and wonder; Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms had to be fulfilled." Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah's name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all these things."

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Father Richard Rohr in The Cosmic Christ*

The Risen Christ is the eternal icon of the Divine Presence that is beyond any boundaries or limits of space or time, or any attempts to limit God to "here" or "there". We cannot achieve being a Child of God; all we can do is awaken to it, become aware of it, know it, and start drawing upon a universal mystery. We live with an inherent dignity by reason of our very creation, a dignity that no human has given to us, and no human can take from us. All bears the divine fingerprint, as St. Bonaventure said.

Our inherent dignity has nothing to do with our race or religion or class. Hindus have it, Buddhists have it, Pagans have it... All over the world. All are just as much children of God as we are. Objectively. Theologically. Eternally. Their Divine DNA is identical to ours. We deny our "monotheism" (there is one God) if we believe anything else.