

**Easter C.19;** Acts 10:34a-43; Col 3:1-14; John 20:1-9

***Life is different now.***

**An empty tomb still speaks of an unbelievable event.**

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

Running, she found the apostles and told them, "They have taken the Lord ... from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

Resurrection is an unbelievable event in the 1<sup>st</sup> century as well as ours. **Mary of Magdala** speaks for many rational and level-headed people to this very day.

**What are we, 21<sup>st</sup> century rational people, to make of this?**

Listen to an old story ...

\*Two little caterpillars were clinging to a leaf on a tall maple tree when a beautiful butterfly floated by. It was the *first time* either of them had ever seen a butterfly.

The one caterpillar was awestruck by its beauty and grace. "*How exciting ... it must be to have wings and to be able to soar like that!*"

But the other did not share this enthusiasm. "*Listen,*" the cautious one said, "*there's no way in creation you're ever going to get me up in one of those things!*"

(\*Sunday Mornings, Clark, Easter C)

**Which little caterpillar are you?**

Actually, there's a little dark voice inside us all that speaks words very much like that, "*I'm a caterpillar and that's all there is for me - none of this soaring in the heavens. I'll inch along my assigned leaf for a while and then one day*

*... some bird will get me, or I'll just fall dead onto the ground.*"

There is much in life that confirms that dark little voice: our cherished hopes get dashed, our best ideas come to nothing, and our treasured things wear out and fall apart. We get sick and grow old. We fall apart and die. It seems that dark voice *must* be right. Yet, there's another voice within us that says,

**"Not so fast. There just has to be more."**

All our lives, at least when we've been paying attention, every one of us has heard a quiet whisper saying, "*You are special! And you are destined for something more than dying.*" That *inner whisper is always quiet*. It's so hard to put a finger on it, that often we hardly notice it ... or we just *don't dare to trust it*.

**Jesus makes the difference.** When he came among us, spoke to us about that inner whisper and told us we can trust it because it is God who is whispering to us and telling us that we are *very cherished children*.

**Those are incredibly comforting words!**

**Can we trust them? Talk is cheap.**

The reason we really have something to celebrate this Easter morning is that Jesus did more than just talk. **He acted and gave us a sign** we can count on: *his own* dying and being buried, and rising from the dead as guarantee that his words to us

2 ... and those quiet whispers in our heart ... can be trusted.

**That is the message of Easter and of Jesus' resurrection:**

God didn't make us for pain and suffering,

for sadness and dying,

but for life, for exciting, eternal life in the divine embrace!

**Life is not a Problem to be solved. Life is a Mystery to be Lived.**

Resurrection, in Christ, is part of that wonderful Mystery!

As the Letter to the Colossians says, **"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."**

Some **One** hidden is speaking to our hearts....

St. Francis de Sales speaks about *"this divine germ (seed) of immortality."* **We are born with a desire ... to have fullness of life.** The apparent finality of death is overwhelming to many of us. We can find genuine consolation in the preface at our funeral liturgy, a prayer that confirms the Mystery of the Resurrection: *"Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven".* (Not By Bread Alone, 2013)

**Listen to the wisdom of children ... about this new Reality.**

A Sunday School teacher asked her class the definition of Easter:

*"You get eggs. And you remember God,"* says Mary Louise Duggard, age 8.

*"It's the day that God woke up,"* says Jamila Young-Hogan.

*"It's when Jesus got alive,"* says Amanda Ward, age 7. (esermons.com)

There are still many more witnesses to come....

**God's hopes for us reach far beyond the horizon of this earth. God calls us out**

**of our human situation into the Day of the Lord, yom Adonai!**

*At this Liturgy of the Resurrection of Jesus,*

I believe in our *hidden life in Christ.*

I believe in *"flying high"*.

**I believe in ... an empty tomb!**