

**It has been said,** *“One life on earth is all that we get, whether it is enough or not enough, and the obvious conclusion would seem to be that at the very least we are fools if we do not live it as fully and bravely and beautifully as we can.”*

—Rev. Fredrick Buechner, Presbyterian minister & theologian, author (1926-2017)

We heard this same message in today's Ascension Gospel, ***“Jesus said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.... So, then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven ... and took his seat at the right hand of God.”***

What did the disciples make of this? What do we make of this?

**Let's go back into some recent history ....**

Mission commander Neil Armstrong & pilot Buzz Aldrin landed the lunar module Eagle on July 20, 1969. Armstrong became the first human to step onto the lunar surface and famously said,

*“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”*

Although that step out of the spaceship was just one small step for him, it had *amazing significance* for the human race. Neil Armstrong walking on the moon

í meant that it was possible for others to walk on the moon.

**As astonishing as Neil Armstrong's action was,** Jesus's ascension into heaven is what truly has ultimate significance for all of humanity and creation. Jesus, through his *life, passion, death and resurrection* took upon himself the sins of the world to free us & to enable us to be in union with God through him. Through the Ascension, Jesus has made it possible for us to participate in God's very presence. Just as Neil Armstrong overcame limits, which allowed Humanity to walk on the moon, so has Jesus overcome death allowing us to reach heaven.

**Neil Armstrong was a bridge to the Moon & Beyond!**

***The Ascended Jesus is the bridge to a new World, to Heaven on Earth!***

***Are we “bridges”, too?***

**What do we do now? That is a good question!**

**The feast of the Ascension reminds us of two facts:** one is that the Resurrection means we are deprived of the physical presence of Jesus; the other fact is that *the Holy Spirit* is able to make Jesus known & present to far greater numbers at the same time than would be possible in human form. So, the disciples are being told, we are being told, while this is the end of one significant experience

**- it is the beginning of another one.**

er present; the cosmic Christ has received all  
with us until the close of time (Matthew 28: 18-20).

**Our Easter celebration is coming to an end; but the joy of living ...**

**2 ... new life *in Christ* is still just beginning.**

**Pope Francis, said it this way ...**"Human history, our history, the history of every one of us is never finished; it never runs out of possibilities. Rather, it is always opening to the new to what, until now, we had never even had in mind.

**... to what seemed impossible."** Annual Message to Educational Communities 9 April 2003

Hear again this gentle divine nudge ....

***Why are you standing there looking at the sky?***

Jesus the Christ still stands at the Father's right hand, guiding the Christian community and empowering us with the Spirit. Yes, the signs are different from those that the early Christians experienced, but ***the divine Christ still acts through*** his human disciples. As *the Body of Christ* today we are a part of the same mission.

*"In a violent world, Christians preach peace.*

Among those who hate, Christians act in love.

In the face of greed, Christians give their poverty.

Among the proud, Christians remain humble.

**These are *the signs of the risen Christ at work today***" (*America*, M. Simone, 4/30/18).

The Good News has continued to be proclaimed. For over 2,000 years, in spite of sometimes very flawed and, even shocking emissaries, this same message has been presented, and it is offered to you and me this very day:

**We are loved, not abandoned; we are cherished, not forgotten;**

**... we are treasured, not dismissed.**



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Remember that it all happened because our God is  
*Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles,  
leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.*"

It's now our job to pass the Love of God, *in Christ*, on to the next generation.

*Ephesians* tells us, "***May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened that you may  
know the hope that belongs to his call ....***"

**Here is where the action is!!!**

**My friends, *in Christ's* love, let's take another bold step and build bridges not  
simply to the Moon, but to a *Hope* filled Future**

**... and live fully, bravely and beautifully.**