

*So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old  
has passed away; see, everything has become new!*  
*2 Cor. 5:17*

Dearly beloveds:

I write this in the second week of Easter still buoyed by the resurrection energy which reached a crescendo the morning of April 21. The misty mystery of the sunrise sermon on Sharon Mountain provided just what this mystic appreciated and offered a sense of the sacred rhythm of resurrection life being yet again revealed. The incredible beauty of the sanctuary at Christ Church simply took my breath away and I knew God was very near!

I found the experience of Holy Week in Sharon to be incredibly rich and well, holy. I also discovered something new about life here in this beautiful part of God's creation. I realized the vital importance of community! So often we priests focus on numbers in our churches and attendance and, of course, money! And while that is important for sustaining our mission as God's Kingdom helpers, I am learning that the beloved community is not just Episcopalians!

I probably met and greeted and conversed with as many atheists, agnostics, other Protestants, Catholics, Jews and Muslims as I did Episcopalians. And in those albeit brief conversations I gleaned a sense of connection to a mystery and power greater than our religion can prescribe or even attain.

Please do not hear this as any lacking of love and devotion to the Episcopal Church. In fact I believe our adherence to the via media and our values which honor the diversity of God's creation not to mention our sense of sacramentality continue to call me into a deeper relationship with God. AND I am learning that God who is in all things, and Christ who extended his tortured arms on the cross that ALL might be drawn to Him, continue to make all things new, which is the opposite of setting them in stone.

All things new...includes relationships. I wonder whether one of the most important resurrection learnings is that God is restructuring and realigning relationships in order to anoint all of us and draw us closer to a sacred unity.

I offered a meditation on Good Friday at Trinity Lime Rock and it is on the website. It concerned one of the seven last words of Jesus: Woman, Behold your son! Beloved disciple, Behold your mother! Even to his last breath Jesus was teaching us to radically reconsider relationships, even intimate ones and legally prescribed ones.

We are each unique and the same; we are individual and we are one. This is the lesson which our Creator teaches us over and over. This is the lesson which the discovery of DNA supports.

Beloveds, we are being called to Behold each other, all our each others, and to love each other in new ways with new ministries. Behold yourself, your family, your church and your community in the resurrection light which Easter brings.

Easter blessings,  
Martha