

St. Boniface Episcopal Church Guilderland, New York



Easter 2017

“There Shall You See Him”

Our recent weather pattern makes my mind drift toward Noah and the flood of the eighth chapter of Genesis, but I trust that Easter will break the gloom and with it will come some blessed UV rays. Our liturgy, lectionary and lyrics will reflect Easter’s refulgent radiance as we turn from reflective penitence unto responsive praise to the Son. Easter’s light is found by those who intentionally seek it out. The Gospel reading for Easter Day from St. Mark’s version has the two Mary’s eagerly heading to the tomb at dawn, being redirected by an angel and meeting Jesus in mid-stride. Jesus tells the women to have the others look for Him in Galilee stating “there shall they see me.”

Reading the various Gospel accounts for this season reminds us that Easter is a reality for those who make it their own. The atonement for our atrocities, the forgiveness of our failings and the sacrifice for our sins are found in the one they call the Christ. Easter’s dawn calls us to get up, get out and go after this one they call the Christ. Last Sunday after church, visits and lunch, Robin and I drove home finding the roadways dotted with cyclists, joggers and walkers seeking some time in the recently illusive sun. As a sunny day does nothing for one who sits inside, so too is a Christ who is not sought after. Easter calls us to find new ways to see and follow the Christ.

Yesterday at the Wednesday 12:05 service, we studied about Richard the 13th century Bishop of Chichester, England whose most famous words captures the essence of our topic with great beauty and power as he prayed, “to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly.” The Easter event encourages, empowers and exhorts us to find the places in life where you will be with the Christ. To hear in circumstance and blessing the words “there shall you see Him.”

In Christ,

Father Steven +