

Easter...

“Something Happened!”

John 20:1-18

August 29, 2018

Rerun of Easter - April 1, 2018

We don't know what....but we do know:
Something....happened!

Something happened that morning
in the garden
that changed the hearts and minds of
those who knew him
and
*connected them...to each other and to
Him...with God....at-one-ment...saving
ourselves is something God offers us*

*in ways that have changed all humanity
from that time right through this
time....and beyond.*

Something happened.

What do you think it was?

It wasn't resuscitation...that would mean
Jesus was to die again....it was a
resurrection brought about from “above”
as Jesus wedded himself to the great “I
Am”.

But how? What happened?

Does it matter...what it was that exactly
happened...as much as it matters that
we honor its deeper meaning and impact
....which is far beyond our
understanding?

Can you step into the mystery and lean
into its possibilities

whether you can understand....or
not...what happened
...because....something did happen!?

Beyond the story as it is told, whatever it
was on earth *and* in heaven that
happened that day....

it was and is so powerful
it brought you here this morning over
2000 years later!

It wasn't conventional, it doesn't make
sense,
it can be debated....but it did happen!

The Easter story can be maddening if we
approach it from the limitations of
understanding,
instead of faith.

Life maddening if you try to live in a
cave of intellect

...cut off from spiritual life, or live only
in *your* part of the garden...garden of
certainty...where lack of bio-diversity
will stunt possibility.

If you limit yourself to your rational
understanding and absolute certainty,

you will run up against a wall of
resistance....in yourself.

Your understanding won't get you very
far in the face of real life.

And the certainty that lives in you will be shallow
rather than deeply divine and empowering. *But.....*

How can we be strong enough to say "no" to the limits place on ourselves by a false
need to understand before acting...?

We live in a tempting, challenging, rationalizing, limiting, dead ended world! *So.....*

**How can we be courageous enough
to say "no" to all that?
How?**

By first and every day saying "YES!" to the ultimate, life-giving power of the
cosmos: God...Divine Presence...

Holy Possibility...Unity...Love

the almighty interconnectedness of creation!

(Get it? You affect everything as it will also affect you!
Never ending interconnected! Say yes to this and
something happens!)

In fact, the "necessary no" we are seeking cannot be invoked without this "affirming
yes" coming first.

Say Yes **first** so you can say no **next**....Make *that* happen!
(Only *you* can make that happen.)

Jesus did just that!

He could say no to conventional understanding and secular and religious culture with
its limiting options

because he had first said yes to God....that would be yes to life in God.

Life beyond this life's circumstances and limitations.

Yes to integrity.

Yes to being interconnected with all people and creatures and creation...in the same
moment.

**Jesus said no to death experienced in all its myriad of ways in each day
(not just no to death on the cross)....**

he could because he said **yes first**

to the authority of our shared faith story....how we are woven together in the wisdom teachings that are here to free us

...the story of God amongst us -- teaching, guiding, loving, and protecting us.....**if** we will let God/let holiness into our lives first!

And...it's not a foreign concept to us.
Parents live with this concept each day.

For we who are parents....it is *because we said yes* to parenting first, we can say no to our child;

no, you cannot play in the street.

That necessary no is only possible because you, as a loving parent, have already said yes to your commitment to safeguard the health of your child.

And....all and each of us...you....

You can say no to temptation because first you said yes to self-regulation.

You can say no to revenge because first you said yes to learning skills of integrity and then practicing them in forgiveness.

You can say no to drugs because first you said yes to clear living....and you're worth it!

You say no to overspending, under-spending, mis-spending because you have said yes to walking the talk, letting your faith shape your spending.

You say no to racism because you have said yes to inclusive love.

You say no to oppression because you say yes to justice.

You say no to crankiness because you say yes to self-awareness and kindness.

You say no to your temptation, your metaphoric "Satan" because you have said yes to the Spirit....first!

We have received atonement...but not by Jesus taking on our sins. Rather, we are at-one-ment with God

As we take on our own stuff, willing to make sacrifices in order to keep our integrity...

As we resist the ways of this world and take on the ways of Jesus, ways of light, truth, oneness with God

at the same moment we take it on with every single human being in this world.

**We will be no better off than the least of these
for we are one!
Our one-ness that is true life, not resuscitation,
but resurrection!!!**

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It's Easter.

*Something* happened....that day...for them....  
and today....  
**for you!**

It's happening! Feel it?

And yes, it is hard to say no, no, no.  
It is often lonely.

It is hard to be a human being who says yes first.

That's why Jesus *still* comes.....

So, we can say "YES" first,  
every day,  
**so "no" becomes the best "yes" of all!**

Say yes....you have to....

and when you aren't able to say yes for yourself...  
for your own well-being.....  
aren't able to say that "affirming yes" first  
so you can say your necessary "no" next,

I'm going to be saying it for you with you,  
and Becky and Maynard and Larry and Christian and Judy and Josh are...your spiritual  
leaders....

**because something is happening...**  
in us and we're here for you!

**Together....we are powerful...death defying!**

Something happened.  
**Something's happening!**

Walk out of that cave of needing rational explanation for something that is non-rational.

Go beyond the garden of certitude.

With more than a few *Easters* now under my belt since I began to walk out of that empty cave,

I feel like I have begun to embrace the mystery of the resurrection.

I am able to feel the force of Easter in my own bones.

**The resurrection is taking place within  
*my* beating heart and within yours  
and within the heart of this community life  
*we strive to foster.***

When we let go of needing to understand fully....so we can have certainty and control our reality,  
then, then are resurrected!

In fact, in spite of how we might feel about ourselves sometimes....

no matter how isolated,

alone,

broken,

separated,

we divinely do know we have always been and always will be one open to all kinds of new possibilities.

Let it be.

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We can and do welcome what's next...No Fooling!
For if not now, when?

Life in one continuous moment in the now.

All you have is this moment right now!

Something is happening...
Will you let it?

Really? No fooling? No fooling!