

St Luke's in the City

Celebrating at the Crossroads

4th Sunday in Lent

2 March 2008

Dear Friends,

Mid-way through Lent... Are we entering the secret room of our own hearts, the one inhabited by the Father who sees in secret? What joy and suffering are we encountering in this Lenten landscape? With what demons are we wrestling? What grace and burden is the Divine One placing upon us by virtue of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ? Are we thirsting for the life-giving water which quenches, to eternal life? What blindness in us is the Lord revealing and illuminating? From what bondage are we in need of liberation? In what way/s are our hearts being broken?

The life of faith is a life of fierce and joyful hope in the context of real experience, real joy, real suffering, and constant restlessness. All things are in a state of flux, everything happens through strife, wrote Heraclitus in the 4th century BCE, reality is a condition of unrest. Our hearts are indeed restless, as St Augustine declared in the 5th Century CE, until they find their rest in the Living God alone. We know that we must be re-born, by water and Spirit, that we are being born from Above/Within. We know that the parable of the Loving Father (Prodigal Son) is the history of the universe – our task, declared Meister Eckhart in the 14th century CE, is the attainment of Being, Eternal Life, union with the One, the return to the Father's heart. How we ache for Union in the heart of the Divine!

The quintessence of this tremendous quest is symbolically held each year in the ancient liturgy of the Sacred Easter Triduum ('Try-doo-um'). In the Triduum – one great liturgy which we pray together over three days – the entire Christian proclamation is potently condensed. The Triduum is the beating heart, the vibrant centre, the essential source, of all Christian liturgy and proclamation. Restlessness and rest, thirst and quenching, despair and joy, delight and suffering, blindness and sight, death and re-birth, Above and Within, Being and Becoming – all the searing dualities of human experience are dynamically welded together, synthesised by this one great liturgical action.

Such is the joy and the mystery and the demand and the beauty and the ecstasy of the Sacred Easter Triduum. There is none other like it! We get but one chance each year. Why miss out? Come with us.

With my love,
David