



*"I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud on the horizon, just where the sea and the sky come to mingle with one another.*

*Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone." "Gone where?" Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port. Her diminished size is in me, not in her.*

*And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There, she is gone," there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!" And that is dying.*

Dear Parishioners, Beloved in Christ:

I pray that this Easter finds you embraced by Christ's loving sacrifice to save us from lasting death. May we all be blessed by the knowledge of, and faith in, His Wondrous Love!

St. Paul reminds us all that the eventual victories in life are often initially hidden from our eyes. "Faith is the substance of that which is unseen, yet hoped for." I hope this small story I included touches you in a way that allows you to surrender grief or fear to hope and trust, and to allow God to embrace you in His loving plan of salvation. The above scene of Jesus meeting Mary Magdalene at the tomb on Easter is one of my favorite scripture scenes – in a moment, at the sound of her name, all grief is banished, transformed into inexpressible joy! My prayer for you at Easter is that this joy may touch your innermost soul, and lift you up, as Christ lifted Mary from her sorrow and loss.

I hope to be with you, in person or through live streaming. It will be my joy to offer my Masses for you and your intentions this Easter, my eleventh with you since my coming to St. John's. I am truly grateful to be in so remarkable and loving church community. Each week I find new examples of the Spirit of the Risen Christ active in our church. This has been especially true through this long pandemic! Thank you for your support of our parish. Our Easter collection is also an important funding of the many ways our church lives the Gospel and shares the Good News. I thank you for being as generous as your means allow. Thank you for your faithful witness to Christ's Victory. Cling to the Faith in all things!

Please continue to support in every way possible our sisters and brothers who are still journeying through the extended Lent that has been this pandemic. May the beauty of this springtime, blessed by God's love in bringing the earth to warm and sunny life again, after winter snows and gloomy days, remind us of the resilience of both nature, and people of faith.

May God and this Easter Season encourage our hearts, and give us His joy, His peace.

Fr. Gerry Bowen