

Easter 2020

Easter is a story that begins in fear.

It starts with a group of women who are very much afraid. They had watched their friend, Jesus, being humiliated, abused and tortured. His execution was agonizing. At once grieving and terrified, before dawn, while it was still very dark, they go to his tomb to acknowledge what is now dead and lost.

Then everything gets turned upside down. As the light of dawn dispels the darkness, fear gives way to a brilliant discovery:

What they had thought to be the end was really the beginning.

What they expected to be dead, was alive in a new and different way.

A dark night of fear was giving way to dawning of new light and life.

At different points of life, we all find ourselves at the tomb, somewhere, somehow. It's the place where everything seems lost. Where too much feels irreparably broken. There's no hope, utter failure. Sometimes it's the end of a relationship, career, or just the closing of a chapter in life. Sometimes it's that 3am feeling of dreading what is yet to come.

Easter is a gift that is embraced at that "tomb." It is a willingness to look for and see life emerging, even while it

is still dark. Out of the broken pieces of what once was, a beginning, a transformation is unfolding. What seemed utterly dead, is not. Life is simply taking on a new shape, a surprising destiny we never imagined. Out of the residue of what once was, something new is coming to life. We begin to see differently

And what's more, we begin to suspect that beyond the horizon of this world, there is more: an indescribable beauty that awaits us. The discoveries will continue. Where Christ has gone, we will follow. The dawn of each morning is but a taste of eternity.

I once got an Easter card that read: **Easter = In a world where there is so much fear, God once and for all tips the scales in favor of hope.**

The story of Easter begins wherever there is fear. It unfolds wherever, facing the tomb, we say "Yes" to living and loving boldly, because the scales have been tipped by a power far greater than ourselves.

May that story be the story of *us*.

Happy Easter!