

5th Sunday Easter 4/27/86

Acts 14: 20-38

Rev. 21: 1-5

John 13: 13: 34-35

“Then the One on the throne spoke. I am making the whole of creation new.” Each day at our Eucharistic celebration, we honor the Lord Jesus, as I hold up his body and blood and say, “through him, with him, in him; in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours.” And you answer, “Amen.”

In the unity of the Holy Spirit...”Then the One on the Throne, spoke” ...”I am making the whole of creation new” – Our God that is unity, One, Whole is spirit. “Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Lord is, there is freedom...and we with unveiled faces reflecting like mirrors the brightness of the Lord, all grow brighter and brighter as we are turned into the image that we reflect. 2 Cor. 3:17.

The mystery of our God, three persons, though One; the mystery of our life and creation; many though One.

“Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra. They put fresh heart into the disciples”---fresh heart, singleness of purpose. We have all experienced sunsets where the sun has gone down but the atmospheric conditions are right so that the particles of vapor become brighter and brighter as they take on the light and glow in undulating waves of radiance. “Now has the Son of Man been glorified.”

St Gregory writes in my vigil reading: “For as the Son of Man rose above the sunset, from the very place where he slept in death, so we will rise to manifest his glory.”

For me, this symbol of the sunset, of space, radiant with the reflected light of the ‘Son’ is a symbol of the New Creation, where many will be One... “The whole of creation new.” The body of the Risen Lord, through Him, with Him, in Him, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit.”

There is a verse in my hymn at Lauds, “Your love is at the heart of creation” – Let us return to the heart of creation, the beginning. “In the beginning, the Spirit, the One, hovered over the formless void.” First came the sound, the Word, breathed forth, creation. Energy of the spirit, Space, One, slowed down to form the Many.

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap020611.html>



The artist Le Corbusier writes in *The New World of Space*: “Taking possession of space is the first gesture...of man and animals, of plants and clouds, a fundamental manifestation of equilibrium and duration. The occupation of space is the first proof of existence.” For me, the risen life of the Lord Jesus is the process by which the Many – Matter that is the Word, through Him, With Him, In Him – will again become One in the spirit-space. One in the radiance of the glory of His Presence, through which, with which, in which, all matter will become penetrated and radiant in the Spirit, made whole, new; space again taking possession as in the beginning. But now, that space, glorious in the new presence... “Jerusalem, city of god, you

will shine in radiant light,” a “new heaven and a new earth.”

“Now has the Son of Man been glorified and in Him god has been glorified...My little children, I give you a new commandment, love one another as I have loved you...everyone will know that you are my disciples” ----fresh hearts-

We know today, that matter is energy consisting largely of space; from the infinitesimal particles of the atom to the cosmos, which extends outward through the vast star systems.

Our visual world is one of form and space, mass and void. We speak of objects as being solid like an orange, or having texture like a stone wall, space penetrating, or being linear as the bare branches of our trees. This description is only partial for it does not take into account the relationship to the empty environment surrounding the objects, to the space that is also there.

A group of artists have helped me “to see and see” again as Jesus tells us, in what they call the “Design continuum”. In the “Design continuum” these artists show how solid objects slowly give way to space until space takes over completely. As in the radiance of the sunset.

If we can learn to see the space articulated by lines, such as our beautiful windows; such as the sacred space of our chapel, or the space articulated by the bare branches of the trees of our lovely environment, we can learn to experience the presence in the space of our hearts, of the all pervading oneness of the Spirit that unites the Many. The spirit that will eventually penetrate all Matter with the Glory of The Presence of Love. “My little Children, I give you a new commandment: love, be my disciples. ---Fresh heart.---

The Sculpture Giacometti uses space and form to symbolize this deeper meaning, that of the Spirit, the inner space of the heart.

His figures are reduced to long, thin, linear planes in space. For him the idea of the thin dematerialized form had a meaning. He wrote: “ I have never regarded my figures as a complete mass but as transparent constructions. It was not the outward form of human beings which interested me, but the effect that have on my inner life.”

The icon is another form of art to effect an inner experience where we are one in the spirit – Now the Lord is spirit...and we with unveiled faces reflecting like mirrors – grow brighter and brighter as we are turned into the icon we reflect. The space that is our hearts – the energy of the Spirit of love that extends in all directions –

“My little children --- I give you a new commandment.... love one another as I have loved you...be my disciples.”

Here is our call, our mission, our journey – “then Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra. They put fresh heart into the disciples.”

Like the sunset, matter becoming space growing brighter and brighter, radiant with the presence of the Spirit of creating love...anew heaven and a new earth.

“Then the One on the Throne spoke, ‘I am making the whole of creation New’. “Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours.”

This we celebrate.