



*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; ... And I heard a loud voice saying,
“See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will
be God’s people, and God will be with them; ... Revelation 21.1*

Just this week, my friend and colleague, Rev. Dr. Steve Sprinkle invited me to be on a panel for his class. I immediately said “yes,” and then I learned the title of the class, “Eschatology and Ministry in Uncertain Times,” and after sharing the title Dr. Sprinkle went on to say, “I will ask you to talk about how you understand resurrection in your ministry setting.”

Ever since I received the invitation I’ve been thinking a lot about the topic. “Eschatology” is a theological word that actually means “revealing” or “unveiling.” And then there is “resurrection.” Other than at Easter or at funerals, I’m not sure many of us think about, much less talk about, resurrection.

I’ve come to believe that we are in the midst of a time of eschatology right now. With all that has happened since March 2020, we certainly are in a time of God revealing to us what has long been present in our lives, our country and our world. Notice I didn’t say God cause any of this. With the pandemic, economic crisis, racial and political divides I believe God is unveiling our true circumstances and calling us to awaken and “see” what is before us.

When it comes to resurrection, I believe that the Paschal Mystery, the story of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, is a story that is true for every one of us. By that I mean that all around us and throughout our lives, if we are willing to see it, the story of resurrection is being played out: life, death, resurrection, over and over again. In fact, I believe that if we awaken to what God is trying to reveal to us, we have a chance to have a true resurrection, meaning we have a chance at a new life for us, for our country and for the world.

As I listened to Amanda Gorman, Poet Laureate, share her poem “The Hill We Climb” at the Biden-Harris Inauguration yesterday, I couldn’t help but hear a call to awakening and the new life that we can co-create with God. In her words I heard the echoes of the words of Revelation, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; ...” The last lines of her poem share the eschatology and the Paschal Mystery so very well.

“... when the day comes we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid, the new dawn blooms as we free it, for there is always light if only we’re brave enough to see it, if only we’re brave enough to be it.”

May it be so. Amen.

