

TRINITY NEWS

Epiphany III

Moments that Expand God's Presence in the World

Have you ever felt completely relaxed? Thomas Merton described such a moment as “falling through your self into God.” Now isn't that beautiful? At such moments the creation swallows us up into a dimension of peace that refreshes the soul. Jesus came from the desert trials where he had dissolved into the silence of the sand to enter the silence of God. He was ready for his moment. He announced that the Reign of God was entering the world in a fresh way. He announced that it was the fulfilment of all other moments. It was what Athanasius called a “recapitulation” of all things. It was also the moment of Jesus. It was an announcement of his own destiny. How did Christ feel when he came into his own area of Galilee with this message burning word-shapes into his mind and heart? What enormous excitement! Revelation unfolding, curtain rising! Bring it on!

I sat in silence this week for three days at a retreat at the Benedictine Centre in Tagaytay. I had come from a medical test on the circulation in my legs on Sunday afternoon at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City. I had discomfort after coming off a flight from Australia a month ago. I tried to ease it with brisk walking to no avail, except to improve general health. Borderline sugar brings concerns about circulation. The young man who tested me extensively reported no deep vein thrombosis and circulation normal. Relief! But such moments can go the other way. Destiny can be decided in a moment.

A poem of David Whyte called **The Opening of Eyes** was recited by Dr David Benner in the retreat. These words thrilled me:

It is the opening of eyes long closed
It is the vision of far off things
Seen for the silence they hold
It is the heart after years of secret conversing
Speaking out loud in the clean air.

The last two lines speak to the moment of Jesus and his announcement after “years of secret conversing” in the heart, “speaking out loud in the clean air.” It is like that for us when sometimes after such prolonged inner conversations of the heart, we feel free to speak out loud in the clean air. Such air is clean, crystal clean, ‘cleared’ for words spoken from the gentleness of silence, yet true to our heart and true to the best of being in us.

Such moments don’t come often, because they are the fruits of reflection, but when they do, for a moment the numbness of our feelings and dumbness of our speech surges into articulation and resounds in the clean air. It is our moment and it will decide that phase of our destiny, and perhaps all of it.

Jesus came walking along, praying as he walked, surrounded by others in their colourful robes, and in the midst of their chatter he spoke aloud in the clean air. The words did not return empty, and the Spirit in the voice rushed ahead to share them.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Jan. 23, Monday. Non-working holiday. **Office closed.**

Jan. 24, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am.
- Study Group, 7:30pm @ the Tutton’s

Jan. 26, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1b-13

Mark 1:21-28