

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Easter  
April 24, 2022 Year-C  
Ascension, Hinton

I think it's very fitting that Earth Day, which you guys observed yesterday and Friday, happens during the Easter season. Because the truth is resurrection is all around us. We're just now experiencing the resurrection in seeing everything resurrect from a long winter. The leaves are popping out, all that died last fall is now coming out of its tomb and bursting with new life. And this lets us come to know that the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Jesus rising from the tomb is also for we humans. It's the ultimate statement from God that the whole created order of God's creation is this ever evolving cycle of life and death. And that death has no sting, as the Apostle Paul tells us. Death has no victory. All of creation is eternal. So I applaud you all for celebrating earth day this weekend. In truth Earth Day is a very Christian observance. But it comes with a cost.

I do believe we have a responsibility for the care of God's creation that he gave us dominion over. We are for the first time in human history witnessing the natural order of God's creation moaning and saying "ouch." We are witnessing the polar caps melting away at an alarming rate because of climate change. And we all know, 97% of the climate scientists are saying it's because of what we're doing. The use of fossil fuels (which have served us well for nearly two hundred years) is the major contributor. And their predictions are staggering. They predict we're altering the climate and the natural order of things at an alarming rate and it won't be long before our world's not the same world we've come to know as our island home.

So I think the question for us all this morning might be, So what is our Christian responsibility in the midst of the reality of what is happening? What are we supposed to do? Quit using fossil fuels? Quit eating beef because of all the methane cows expel? Is this going to reverse what we've created? I don't think we can just turn off that spicket. That ain't gonna happen. But maybe if we continue to keep bringing awareness to all of humanity like what you did this weekend in observing earth day, humanity will ultimately come around, hopefully before it's too late. Our challenge and Christian responsibility for us is to not deny the facts and realities in front of us because it may cause us to have to sacrifice some of the comforts and luxuries that those things we're doing wrong. If we turn a deaf ear to the realities because of our own selves not willing to sacrifice. That's sin. That's we missing the mark that causes us to fall short of the glory of God. This may be the time we as Christians take the bold lead and lead by example. Not wait for the powerful and the greedy to come to some kind of agreement. WE take the torch. WE lead by the all knowing love of God who so loved us he gave us this miraculous island home that works so miraculous and in harmony that we may come to experience the resurrected life of God's abundance.

We heard this mornings Gospel lesson where Thomas wouldn't come to believe until he first hand saw Jesus and touched his nail pierced hands. So we've come to know Thomas as doubting Thomas. I don't know if that's a fair label for him. But it is a stark lesson for us in our life's

journey that we can't have everything proven literally in front of us before we know the realities of everything. Some things we have to trust to those who are in the know. And those who are in the know now are telling us we need to get a grip on this wonderful planet, our home. That's good enough for me right now but my big challenge is me making the little sacrifices in my own life that will help reduce our dependency of those things that are harming our planet. I find myself daily ignoring things that I know are harming the planet and I could do without if I were willing to make some sacrifices. It's those kinds of things we might do that show the way to the world that we are resurrection people. That ultimately when we better learn of the miraculous, complex intricacies of our planet we like Thomas will fall on our knees and proclaim, "My Lord and my God."

Again I applaud you for the great witness you give to the world here at Ascension.  
Amen.