

Well...it's one month after Easter...

**And I've been wondering, lately,
if Easter has made any difference in the world...**

in our lives, mine and yours?

**You know, I have this crazy notion
that our faith, what we profess to be real and true,
what I spend my life talking about...**

ought to have some practical, tangible effect on our lives...

it ought to make a difference, not only for us individually, but to the world...

**Easter offers us a powerful truth that if we really took it seriously,
we would never be the same...**

It is a truth so powerful that I don't think it really sinks in for most people.

**The real power of Easter is not what God did for Jesus by raising him to new life...
but what God is doing for us...**

**In John's Gospel (14:12), Jesus tells his followers: "Very truly, I tell you, the one who
believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these,
because I am going to the Father.**

In other words, to use the language of our reading today: We are all oak trees.

Yet...like most of the acorns in our modern parable...

**we go about our lives, polishing our shells
attending workshops and reading self help books...**

in and of themselves not bad things to do, really...

**Yet...we have missed the point of what Jesus gave his life for...
and what, I believe his Resurrection affirms...**

We too are incarnations of the Holy One.

He wasn't the only one!

**We too have the divine seed planted within us at birth,
We too have been given life so that we might make known the reign of heaven on
this beautiful green and blue planet.**

The Holy One incarnates, becomes human, in every single person ever born...

Then we are offered a life time of opportunities to make Love visible and real...

and then when this part of our existence has come to end...

life continues in new and mysterious ways...

just as Easter has taught us...

**can you remember all those stories of Jesus appearing in locked rooms? walking through
walls? showing up and then mysteriously appearing again? Often times his best friends
didn't recognize him...and then they do!**

Life is of one piece....

Can we dare to believe it???

**Or are we afraid of what it might cost us so that our true nature,
our soul, has an opportunity to grow and to shine...**

Our Acorn parable today tells the Easter story...

for our true identity to be made known,

it will cost us something...

we must be willing to let go of our outer shells:

our superficial identities,

our small selves,

our false egos...

We must be willing to be broken open

so that our inner life, our Divine souls,

our true nature may flourish and grow.

Being willing to be broken open by life and being willing to use the pain and struggles of our lives as the ground from which our strengths are born...
is never easy.

It is painful, this being broken open.
Ask any woman who has given birth
and she will tell you how much birthing new life hurts!

And so we all find lots of ways to play it small...
oh...not little ol' me!
I don't have any gifts to offer...any talents to share...
We all find plenty of reasons to keep believing that we couldn't possibly
make a difference in the world
so that we can keep on avoiding the pain of being alive...

Yet, it is most often through the pain and struggle of being alive that our
acorn shells, our superficial identities,
are cracked open enough so that our true identity can flourish
and nourish the world...

Yes...each of us has a way of being in the world...
we are woman, we are man...
we are a teacher, a sanitation worker, a politician,
a home maker, a dead beat....
We live in mansions and we live on the street,
No matter.....
Inside each of us is an oak tree.

You know, God loves diversity!
Notice there are not only oak trees, but ginko and maple trees...

There are not only blue jays, but cardinals and sparrows and eagles...

There are millions of types of flowers and billions of types of insects...

There is not just one kind of human person...

Each of us is uniquely qualified to make known a particular facet, a particular face of God in the world...

Inside each of us, the seed of Divinity waiting, yearning to sprout, to grow, to reach far and wide consoling, forgiving, feeding and loving.

Inside each of us is the Dream of God waiting to find its particular expression through our passions, likes and dislikes, our gifts and our talents.

Inside of each of us is the amazing, mysterious Divine Power and grace that has also given birth to the Milky Way Galaxy, monarch butterflies, and the Great Barrier Reef

Inside of each us is the amazing, mysterious Divine Power and Grace that has also given birth to Sugar Maples, meadow larks, newborn baby goats, and juicy, red strawberries.

Inside of each of us is the Spirit that has also worked through Mother Theresa, St. Francis, Ghandi, Martin Luther King Jr., the Buddha and Jesus...

That identical, very same spirit of God that is at work in our lives...

That very same spirit of God is our deepest and most authentic self.

This seed, this spirit is waiting for our controlling well polished acorn shell to break open so that it might have a chance to blossom and flourish...

We have been born so that the Holy One can once again walk the highways and byways of our home towns.

**We have been born so that Holy Love can once again heal the broken,
give comfort to the lonely and forgive the forsaken...**

**We have been born so that laughter can ripple around the world
and so that joy can be palpably felt.**

We have been born so that Beauty can flourish and Love can be made visible.

So, of course, the question is: are we willing?

Are we willing to allow ourselves to be broken open?

**Are we willing to let go of our small ego centered selves,
and to allow our true identity to emerge and to grow,
and to thrive for the good of all creation???**

Are we willing to grow into magnificent oak trees???

Are we?