



## Immersing ourselves in the eternal enactment of renewal

An address for the Cosmic Mass at St John's Tide  
19<sup>th</sup> June 2005 ● Rev Trisha

*Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on your hearts, to be known and read by all men; and you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not in a written code but in the Spirit; for the written code kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

*Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not see the end of the fading splendor. But their minds were hardened; for to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds; but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

*2 Corinthians 3:1-6, 12-18*

*Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with*

*Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*  
2 Corinthians 4

## **Introduction**

St John's Tide is the festival of the human being – a cosmic enigma, where we are able to celebrate the eternal renewing power at work in us for the unfolding of a higher evolutionary purpose.

We are now just days/hours away from the point in our solar year, when we will experience our shortest contact with the rays of the sun, and our longest hours in the darkness of the night.

In the journey of the cosmic forces, the spiritual worlds have breathed away from us and are farthest from us in their influence – we are free to expand our awareness of ourselves, fill our atmosphere with the substance of our own spiritual beingness.

In this season there is an opening-up rhythm for us and an opportunity – to bring forth the shining purpose of our place in the cosmic scheme of things. It is not as the winter season would entice us, a time of retreat or hibernation, it is a time of waking up to ourselves, of realization and celebration of the freedom we have been given – humanly and cosmically, to shine in our own spiritual right.

## **Making sacred the act of incarnation**

This is quite something to comprehend. That through the deed of Christ, the making sacred of the act of Incarnation, we are now the architect of the direction of our life, the architect of this incarnation and each moment to come. The currents and shape of our actions are now open to the touch of the Christ impulse and for the one who chooses Christ, the rhythms of the world, the law and karma of the old way and its earthly hold, are being transcended by the new impulse of the divine, rising up and being magnified, not in a 'written code' but a living code, shining from within the consciousness of the human being.

The experience of being human, is now the opportunity to express being fully divine. And to magnify this through deeds which enrich the cosmos. So this time marks something wondrous – the place and purpose in the spiritual order of things, for Christed humanity to make its mark!

## **The Cosmic perspective**

I've been using my imagination to see this earth, this world, this habitation from the perspective of the spiritual worlds.

I started this at Easter. I've been imagining what it is to have witnessed with the holy ones 2000 years ago, when one of their princes, the spirit of the sun, entered into the

earthly realm and was bound in a human body, locked in the darkness of the earthen vessel, cut off from their presence and their love.

I have tried to imagine also, what that moment must have been like, when the precious life blood of His spirit was poured out, and the life essence of the sun spirit, seeped into the earth, and a place of darkness that was lost, registered with a new pulse of spiritual life, on the radar of the heavens.

Love was born on the earth, in the earth, on that day. It flowed as a new power into the very fabric of the physical realm and the spirit of the earth, was replaced by the spirit of the sun, the Christ.

This is a powerful and unfathomable truth – through Christ in Jesus, eternity touched mortality, and through entering into human death, in this body is now raised up, life, in the Spirit of Christ.

This moment in time, was also beyond time; in this meeting of the timeless with time, the future destiny of humanity was changed forever. This planet of the cross, has become a sphere of sun in the making and each human being, has the power to take up their cosmic place of divine sonship.

This festival is a chance for us to consider the evolutionary path of transformation; what the journey is that we are making from beings on a path of death and destruction, to beings of life and light.

#### **The eternal enactment of the Christ deed**

It is a chance to consider, what the spiritual transformation of our being looks like – what we are indeed choosing, when we enact the deed of Christ, through this portal of the cosmic mass. Through the act of consecration, we join the powerful deed on the earth, with the forces of the cosmos – we sustain and magnify the blood of Christ continually flowing into the earth. We break the bread, we sanctify the wine and in this miraculous and precious act, we intertwine with eternity. We bring to life again and again, the body of Christ in the earth.

#### **Renewal of our body as the body of Christ**

I am interested in this power of renewal and transformation. I find myself more and more appreciating the need to consciously participate of the body of Christ.

I have reached a stage in my life, when on many levels I am witnessing the forces of change in my being, and wanting to enter into this with a conscious sense of co-operation and participation, rather than resistance or denial.

The blood is the agent of change and regeneration. It is where fire and air and water meet in our being and it sustains life. When I imagine myself as a being of light, this starts in me in the heart centre and I imagine my body becoming less identified with its material expression and becoming increasingly etherized, luminous and immaterial and see a future self as one who truly could walk in the light.

This is of course in direct contrast to the truth of our physical being, where in fact at this present time, we do destroy actually everything with which we come in contact. We kill the air each time we breathe in; we breathe out a hazardous substance.

When our eyes receive the light, we destroy it; our ears kill off the sounds that come to us. Science and medicine reveal to us a picture of the metabolism breaking down what comes into us, this is the picture of our earthly survival.

On one level we could say how depressing! But it is good to have no illusions. This is the picture of how far we have descended into matter. It seems a long way from the image of a being of light that I imagined earlier, and it is perhaps more difficult for us to take the leap of faith towards that which is represented for us in these words of St Paul “for we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness, from one degree of glory to another” The physical reality of this change is painful, an enormous work, the beginnings of a glory which we can only glimpse. ‘Christ in you – the HOPE of glory’!

### **Bringing life and light through our consciousness**

How do we make this transition....How do we take hold of this promise and make it real everyday, every new day realizing that we are able to turn this vessel of death, to a vessel of life; that we are able to be engaged, to behold and to co-operate with every breath we take, so our being breathes not harm, but blessing for the world, for the cosmos – it is our consciousness that is the key.

When I used the words of St John for my contemplations during the mystical interlude, I found that as the mystic, he paints a beautiful sacramental picture of our changed relationship with the earth, when he records the footwashing. Humanity through Christ is brought back in contact with the earth. Through the sacred act of incarnation, when we set our feet upon the earth, we are touching, receiving, appreciating, knowing and making known this new rhythm of spiritual life that now pulses through the earth.

I take it in through my senses. I consciously participate by taking in gifts of the earth, not just the bread, the wine, but whatever substance of this earthly existence which is the body of Christ, into this body. I bless it with my consciousness and my love, and the life of spirit, the etheric force joins my etheric to the memory of the cosmos. In this simple act of affirming the body of Christ, we magnify the divine at work in us and in our world. We make our lives sacred.

### **Mass for the world**

I have been reading again the life and works of Teilhard de Chardin. I have been valuing his Mass for the World and the way he could put his hand upon the earth, lift his eye to sky, hear the sound of spirit in the murmurings of the wind.

He was a scientist as well as a priest. A scholar and a mystic. He filled his soul with a longing to magnify his experience of God in every particle of life.

We were in Canberra last weekend and made our return trip on Sunday via the Mt Selwyn Tablelands. We went off road and sat amongst the high country elements and it was about the time Richard would have been conducting the mass here; it was quite something to have this awareness and fill ourselves up with the renewing power of being blessed with this body of Christ, whenever and wherever we are. The glory of the spirit here and now, filling our whole being. It felt as we say in the mass, magnified in us.

### **The task of transformation**

Our task as Christed people is to embrace this work of transforming our earthly vessels from the perishable to imperishable. In the eternal scheme of things, it won't happen overnight, but for those who consciously identify with the Christ, it will happen – it is already happening.

The path of transformation from the material vessel to the spirit filled vessel of our perfecting, is a path of effort, conscious and challenging. Change means suffering, as did the Christ who made our way out of the old law of Karma and into the freedom and gift of grace.

Our bodies are changing; evolution is moving forward; we need to understand what it is to co-operate and embrace the purpose of being changed from one degree of glory to another. If what we want is a nice easy life – safe and surrounded by the patterns that are familiar, then we better not invite Christ into our life.

To immerse ourselves in the body of Christ is to empty ourselves of all that we would cling to our selfishness, our security – all that would bind of us to the old, so that we may be changed into the vessels of his making for the purposes of the divine.

Can we imagine the reversing of this descent into matter – the transcending of this old body of death into a body of spirit filled life? Can we imagine a time when no longer will our existence bear harm to what is touched, what is seen, tasted, heard. With our consciousness we will bless what fills and sustains us, what flows out of us into the atmosphere of our existence.

Can we imagine this transformation of our senses, where through our higher sensitivities, new senses and organs of spiritual perception are born in us and we are able to share the spiritual substance of ourselves as a blessing for those with whom we come in contact. This is the glory of humanity that comes from the Lord.

The moment of this glory is possible now...if we choose to make a start and call this a new day, a day of newness in the spirit.

### **Conclusion**

I would like to close with a beautiful example which especially belongs in this week, not just because of St John's Tide, but because this is a priestly example and it lights up what can be alive in each of us as we count the days, for our sorrore Janet, to her ordination next week.

These are the precious words, so well known to many now, but in its time a glimpse of the future consecration: the words of the priest and mystic Teilhard de Chardin:

*"Since once again Lord, I have neither bread nor wine nor altar, I will raise myself beyond these symbols, up to a pure majesty of the real itself; I your priest, will make the whole earth my altar and on it will offer you all the labours and sufferings of the world.*

*Over there on the horizon, the sun has just touched with light the outermost fringe of the eastern sky. Once again beneath this moving sheet of fire, the living surface of the earth wakes and trembles, and once again begins its fearful travail. I will place on my paten, O God, the harvest to be won by this*

*renewal of labour. Into my chalice I shall pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day, from the earth's fruits.*

*My paten and my chalice are the depths of a soul laid widely open to all the forces which in a moment will rise up from every corner of the earth and converge upon the spirit. Grant me the remembrance and mystic presence of all those whom the light is now awakening to the new day. Lord make us one."*

So shall it be

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