

May 21, 2023 Ascension Sunday

Pr. Steve

Texts: Ephesians 3: 14-21; Luke 24: 44-53

Let's hear a portion of Paul's prayer again. [Ephesians]

*In xxx glory, may the Spirit confirm you in power with regard to your inner being.
May Christ be in your hearts in faith, planted in love, built on love,
that you may have the capacity to understand the breadth and the height and the depth,
that you may know the love which is beyond knowledge,
that you may be filled with the fullness of God.
Glory to the One who can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.*

"I have been standing on the edge of the lip of insanity, pounding on the door. Tell me the reasons—what's going on? Suddenly, the door opens. I'm standing on the inside....[whispered] standing on the inside" Rumi

Ascension is not Jesus' exit or escape. It is entering the fullness of the Cosmos that every ounce of this universe might be permeated with that unfathomable compassion. He leaves us purposely so that we will enter into that fullness of life for which we have been created, which emerges through our own personhood. It's too easy for Christians to get stuck on Jesus. That's a problem, when what he's come for is to equip us for the fullness of who we are. To enjoy it! This week you might enjoy your life, wouldn't that be something? xxx

We are rising into the great communion. God, the mystery, lives inside of us in the deepest recesses of our being, but we often don't feel it. And we are living inside the great xxx mystery. We're on the inside, friends.

You don't have to get anywhere else—we're already on the inside.

God remains God. We are xxxx. But we are not God. Sorry to break the news, xxx

And the cosmos remains the cosmos, of which we are a part. But we're now being interwoven together. This is the Christ-work,

That's Christ's work, and all Paul can do is to fall into ecstasy. Glory to God who can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

xxxx

You say, Yeah—how?

Love, not just mere affection

We're talking about Christ's love. Uncontainable, unconditional

Dynamic energy of the universe. So strong that it can resurrect the dead.

Human beings really do want to love each other and simultaneously