

## Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

### Welcome

The World I Live In, by Mary Oliver

I have refused to live  
locked in the orderly house of  
reasons and proofs.

The world I live in and believe in  
is wider than that. And anyway,  
what's wrong with *Maybe*?

You wouldn't believe what once or  
twice I have seen. I'll just  
tell you this:  
only if there are angels in your head will you  
ever, possibly, see one.

*So, in this wide, wide world of maybe's and mysteries, let us proclaim: Christ  
is Risen – He is Risen Indeed.*

### Isaiah 25:6-9

6 On this mountain the Lord Almighty  
will prepare

a feast of rich food for all peoples,  
a banquet of aged wine—  
the best of meats and the finest of  
wines.

7 On this mountain he will destroy  
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;

8 he will swallow up death forever.  
The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the

tears

from all faces;

he will remove his people's disgrace  
from all the earth.

The Lord has spoken.

9 In that day they will say,

"Surely this is our God;

we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the Lord, we trusted in him;

let us rejoice and be glad in his  
salvation.

### 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 The Resurrection of Christ

15 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas,[b] and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

### **John 20: 1-18 Resurrection!**

20 1-2 Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, gasping for breath. “They took the Master from the tomb. We don’t know where they’ve put him.”

3-10 Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn’t go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

11-13 But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus’ body had been laid. They said to her, “Woman, why do you weep?”

13-14 “They took my Master,” she said, “and I don’t know where they put him.” After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t recognize him.

15 Jesus spoke to her, “Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?”

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, “Sir, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him.”

16 Jesus said, “Mary.”

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” meaning “Teacher!”

17 Jesus said, “Don’t cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.’”

18 Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: “I saw the Master!” And she told them everything he said to her.

### **Benediction**

*May you go out from here with a deep and abiding peace – that no matter how messy, how broken, how buried any part of your life may be, Christ is with you. In life, in death, in life beyond death. Whether your faith is fragile and faltering, or steady and sure, may you live beyond reasons and proofs, may you live in the maybe, in the mystery of life springing out of death — and may these words, and these voices echo in your heart throughout the year: Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!*