



Sunday, May 15, 2018

A lot of us were busy the other month taking pictures of the new roof. It's such a great new roof. It's the right color. It's a great accomplishment that brings us together, and we like it. And thank you again Joel and the others who worked on leading this effort and making this roof real.

However, there has been some argument about the best way to photograph the new roof, since we are down here and it is up there. But if you go to google maps, you can get a picture of the roof from above! It looks a little flatter than you would think.

Looking down from on high is a typical way of talking about the Lord. Can it be he sees the world as beautifully as the photographs taken by NASA from the moon? check it out on your computer. Beautiful. Mostly blue.

As Jesus rises, his vision broadens to its full extent. And yet he has promised to be with us, even unto the end of the ages. In his ascension vision he is both microscopic and macroscopic.

The happiness project. Do you know about this project? Under the leadership of Martin Seligman, President of the American Psychological Association, and people like Barbara Frederickson and Sonia Lyubomirsky and some others, academics mostly, the happiness movement concentrates on what makes people happy rather than what makes them miserable. Interestingly, increasing happiness widens vision. When you're happy, you have a big, broad, open mindset. Unhappiness, on the other hand, usually has to do with something fearsome. You need to focus. Flight or fight mechanisms come into play. Sometimes people enjoy these situations because they are exciting, stimulating. But the real happiness they produce is mostly relief when they are over.

The broad vision of the Saints, of Jesus himself is another effect and affect of the sense of spiritual security, and joy, and openness. It is the vision that expands as Jesus rises to his seat on the sapphire throne. Expands presumably to the entire cosmos, which my son the scientist insists on the basis of mathematical probability contains many worlds, which, like our globe, have all the necessary conditions for life and consciousness, of what kind, of course, we know very little about.

But God knows. God knows not only the physical truth of the cosmos, which continues to expand. God

knows the curvature of time. And God knows the meaning of time and space as they influence the world of meaning, I mean the stories of our lives. And God knows the content of time and space to be interpreted in the way that makes meaning.

You might think that the ascension merely completes a cycle. Jesus comes down from heaven in his birth, in his incarnation as human. What goes down must come up. But in fact we're not just back where we started. In fact, everything is different. The usual course of mortality is simply birth to death. What has happened to that trajectory with Resurrection and Ascension?

Well, we do not know exactly how that trajectory has been reversed. But look what the lessons say about how to respond to it. Even though he goes away, Jesus remains with us. We pray that he will exalt us as he has been exalted; and he will.

We open our hearts. And we broaden our vision. And we take courage from his promise so that our joy may be complete.

Amen.