

Earth Day 2020 (April 22, 2020)

by Fr. Phil Horrigan

Reflection/Meditation on today's gospel text:

"For God so loved the world that God sent God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16)

This may be the most celebrated phrase in John's gospel, echoing the prologue of his gospel and focusing on the very heart of John's Christology.

In the act of creation God punctuated each day with the words, "and God said that it was good"!

This is the world that God loved: the earth of God's hand and God's delight. In time God sent the Son to bring light to overcome, to overpower the darkness that human beings had created in the meantime.

But the darkness is not total, or unmovable; it can be pushed back, like a light on a lampstand, like a flickering flame in a darkened room, like the dawn of a new day.

God's love is not blind to the way of the world; it is not artificial, like pity, it is not judgmental. It is redemptive.

God's love aches for the world and all its creatures, none more than its peoples. It is a love that knows no restrictions, - so it will require nothing less than the Son of God as its true light, - there is no facsimile, no stand-in, no understudy.

Only the Son, the only Son.

The presence of the Son is the light that reveals how great non-darkness can be; and judgement comes, not from the light but because of the light. The light reveals the shadows of our lives. Like the afternoon sun.

And those who walk in the darkness will see the light; then they will come to know the light, then they will be embraced by the light, then they will live in the light, forever.

Happy Earth Day.