

'No, No, There is No Going Back'

Reflection for Week of May 4, 2020

The Easter season beckons us not to cling to what we have known, but rather to be open to God's promises for new life. May our collective passage into this newness strengthen us for all that we may encounter ahead.

Suggested Music: "All I Want" – David Haas ([click here](#))

No Going Back

No, no, there is no going back.
Less and less you are
that possibility you were.
More and more you have become
those lives and deaths
that have belonged to you.
You have become a sort of grave
containing much that was
and is no more in time, beloved
then, now, and always.
And so you have become a sort of tree
standing over a grave.
Now more than ever you can be
generous toward each day
that comes, young, to disappear
forever, and yet remain
unaging in the mind.
Every day you have less reason
not to give yourself away.

-- Wendell Berry, *Collected Poems*



Brothers and sisters, as I said, I know I have not arrived; but there's one thing I am doing: I'm leaving my old life behind, putting everything on the line for this mission. I am running toward the only goal that counts: to cross the line, to win the prize, and to hear God's call to resurrection life found exclusively in Jesus the Anointed. -- *Philippians 3:13-14* (Source: *The Voice*)

For Your Reflection:

Our call in these times includes working to see the deeper invitation that the pandemic is providing. How might we be conscious of the transformation occurring within ourselves, our communities, the nation, and the global community as we live through this time? Reflecting and perhaps journaling with the following questions and, if possible, engaging in contemplative dialogue on them may be one of the most important contributions we can make in this challenging time.

Many today predict that life, as we have known it, will not be the same following the pandemic. What do those predictions evoke in you? To what might they be inviting you?

What might it mean for you/us to hold some of what was beloved of the past and carry it toward the future?



Concluding Prayer

May we joyfully journey forward together, listening to God's call to resurrection -- a call to a new way of being that is infinitely more than we could ask for or imagine. Amen.