



**A Touch-Free Resurrection**  
**1 John 1:1--2:2; John 20:19-31**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei (April 7, 2024)**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

What now? What do we do with that information? How do we reconcile the promise of the resurrection with a world that continues to hurt and suffer?

Last week we read the original ending of Mark's gospel: when the women entered the tomb where Jesus had been laid, they found it empty, and a man dressed in white announced that he was risen. At the news "they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." (Mark 16:8)

Apparently, they couldn't keep their encounter a secret for Jesus insisted on showing up in different places and to different groups of people, astounding them and taking them for a spin.

The forces of evil appeared to have the upper hand for a while but ultimately, they could not silence God's Word for too long: darkness could not conquer Light (John 1:5). Because Truth and Life have triumphed, we no longer have to be captive to fear and sin, we are set free! Death is no longer the last word!

Together with the first disciples, and with disciples throughout history, we wrestle with what resurrection means for us, and for the world. The announcement of Jesus' resurrection requires

trust and commitment: we each need to respond in faith and make it a life changing event for ourselves and the world in our reach. From that moment on, what comes next, is the faith renewal to our commitment and endurance to stay the course.

A man was deeply committed to playing golf. Every day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year. One day, as he was about to putt, he noticed a funeral procession going by. He then took off his hat and gave a moment of silence for the procession.

His friend that he was golfing with was amazed at him and said, "Wow that was really respectful." "Well, I should be respectful", Steve replied. "I was married to her for over thirty years."

Throughout our life, we find ourselves in moments of doubt,