

I. How shall we live?

What are we

in the midst of?

What is this life?

How can we give to it fully?

How can we endlessly ask

Endlessly answer

With our every breath?

The collect says

you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing

But is love really that powerful? Can it really be enough? Can it really save us?

What of the wickedness and sorrow of the world?

you have taught us:

Love your enemies, Give to

everyone who begs from you;

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Love, forgive, do not condemn.

The measure you give will be the measure you receive.

Because

You never walk alone.

You are not a lone one.

The self is collective.

My body has an outline

My spirit does not.

II. What is resurrection?

What are we

in the midst of?

The prayerbook says

In the midst of life we are in death.

Paul says

What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead.

-resurrection is a pattern that depends on/ relates to death.

If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

And the physical comes first.

All the travails of this life, personally, collectively, are a desert, a death even as we live. It is our struggle, our path, our life.

There is a painting on my wall

Which a friend made for me.

It shows a golden bird

Ascending through a cloud

Of silver ash.

The edges are black and messy.

The man of dust,

The man of heaven.

No spiritual without the physical. The physical first. Dust first.

The promise of the pattern of resurrection is this: the dust, the physical, the struggle will give way to something new and shining-

III. How shall we live in the resurrection?

you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you.

But what of the wickedness and sorrow of the world?

The psalmist teaches:

1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *

3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *

dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

4 Take delight in the LORD, *

and he shall give you your hearts desire.

5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, *

and he will bring it to pass.

7 Be still before the LORD *

and wait patiently for him.

8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *

the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *

do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

To trust, to delight, in the Lord, to wait patiently for him

Is to seek, know, desire

Your name:

I will

Be

What I will be.

The banner

Under

Which I gather

for you.

Sing and dance

In your embrace

How shall we live? We will love, we will struggle to love amidst the ugliness and cruelty. We will trust that our love, our struggle, our physical bodies, will be the seed of what we will be. The name of God, again: I will be what I will be.

There is a song which asks

Are we at the sea?

Or the desert?

If it is desert, it is a beautiful desert.

I grab the mirage, the possibility of resurrection

With my blood sweat and tears I make it my own.

Where there is hope there is struggle.ⁱ

Struggle to love in the midst of death is our banner of hope.

Philips Brooks said of the resurrection, “On Easter morning, say not “Christ is risen, but I will rise.”

Like the painting:

The man of dust,

The man of heaven.

No spiritual without the physical.

The physical first.

Rise from the dust

Shining wings.

ⁱ Lyrics from Sea, BTS, Hidden Track, Love Yourself