



Dear Thomas,

How often during your retreats at Eastern Point have you seen the doors of the Eucharist chapel flung wide open? Usually they are closed so as not to disturb those who are praying, right behind the door. Now that there is no one praying behind closed doors, they are open all the time and you can see from one end to the other.

In the Gospel today the disciples are together in the upper room behind doors that are not only closed by locked, for fear of what might happen to them. The closed, locked doors are no obstacle for Jesus. Suddenly, he is in their midst with the gift of Peace. He bears his wounds, gracefully and gratefully and rejoices to be with his friends once more. He opens the doors of their hearts so that they may know that he is with them.

And then there's Thomas, the Twin, noted for his doubting but easily surrendering those doubts when he experiences the Risen Jesus for himself. Here's a link to a poem inspired by a cold and raw Spring day, today's Gospel, the present health crisis and the running of the Boston Marathon which would have taken place this Monday. It's titled "T'Winning."

[T'Winning](#)

We also share with you two slideshows. The first you may have seen on Easter Sunday but here it is accompanied by "Dona Nobis Pacem" played by cellist, Yo Yo Ma.

[Easter Sunrise/ Dona Nobis Pacem](#)

The second is the Octave of Easter in images. There is yet to be a burst of spring, but there are dandelions, tenacious in their growing in unlikely places and creating “mini sunbursts.” Who would have ever guessed that a “weed” could be so welcome!

## Eastering 2

We plan in the weeks to come to chronicle this “opening” and “renewal” of life around us and hopefully within us! We hope and pray that the time will soon come when all of our doors will be wide open!

Throughout this Octave of Easter, we have heard the stories of the appearances of Jesus to his friends, at the tomb, in a garden, on the road, on a beach. You may want to do a “review” of this week and ask yourself where the Risen Christ has been most present to you.

Here are some links that may help you to recall your prayer this week:

Monday:

*It is the Third Day* Easter reflection written by Brenda Sheridan  
[It's the Third Day](#)

Tuesday

*The Empty Tomb*, original song written by Rev. Will Burhans, Pastor of Winchester Congregational Church and EPRH retreatant. He performs it with his daughter, Naomi.

[The Empty Tomb/ 4-14-20](#) (Click on Reflections and go to 4-14-20)

Wednesday

The Emmaus story/ reflection and drawings by Lynn Runnels

## Emmaus Reflection

Friday

“On the Beach Where You Give.”

On the Beach Where You Give/ Niles/ Brace Cove/  
Corporation

(Click on Reflections)

The poem below, Crystal-Eyes was written at the beginning of February, before we had any idea of how radically our lives would change. It may speak to us in our present reality as we search for answers and healing for our world.

Donate

Crystal- Eyes

Brisk and bracing,  
A crystal clear  
Day dawning  
Bright blue skies  
Sun light shimmering  
Navy blue seas  
High now, low later  
Morning's initiative.  
An invitation  
To come and be  
Caring's curator  
Healed and healer  
Sealed and sealer  
Weal and welder

Heart's risk and racing  
No crystal clear here  
Hope's drowning  
Blood-shot skies

Sun light shivering  
Whine-dark seas  
Low now, always ebbing  
And still  
Be still, my heart!  
Christ's initiative  
An invitation  
To come and be  
Healed by the Healer  
Sealed by the Sealer  
Weal with the welder  
A wider yoke for two

What medicine wheel  
you take to heal  
when pain drains  
the life from you  
the love from you  
A question mark?  
Or exclamation point!  
You're the curator.  
Will you choose  
Christ's crystal?  
The difference between  
Morning and mourning?  
One and only U!

Robert VerEecke SJ

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