

DEEPENING CIRCLE

Our evolutionary task: to raise the powers of Love upward



Easter Season, 2026



“By the Resurrection I mean that Jesus is alive with God in the full integrity of his humanity ... and is interactively present in and among us now and forever.” —Sandra Schneiders

So the Resurrection is the unveiling of the indestructibility of transfigured love and relationality—not simply something that happens to Jesus. Love is the very field of Divine life. Death cannot sever communion!

Perhaps “transfigured relationality” is exactly what Teilhard means by “to raise the powers of Love upward.” For him, Resurrection is evolution’s breakthrough to a new level of communion. Jesus returns without retaliation, restores without humiliation, breathes peace into shame. That is transfigured relationally: not the old pattern repaired, but a new level of communion made possible in love.

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Contemplative Practice

Learn to savor the moments when your heart opens to wonder, to beauty, to an inner movement toward Love, toward God. Perhaps it’s the upturned face of a child, or a lone bird circling in a cloudless sky, an act of kindness from a friend. Something touches your heart and you pause for a moment to simply savor. These, too, are the stirring of the risen Christ.

Resurrection: Awakening Our Hearts

—Cynthia Bourgeault

The encounter with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus is a study of spiritual recognition. Stuck in their own story, trapped in the past, they are unable to see who is right in front of them. And then he breaks bread with them and vanishes from their midst. Finally they get it, “Were not our hearts burning within us?” The instrument of recognition is their own attuned hearts.

And so for us, our attuned hearts are the inner homing beacon that will bind us to the risen Christ moment by moment.

By the sea of Tiberias, Jesus asks Peter three times, “Peter, do you love me.” And Peter, with growing dismay, responds, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you,” using the Greek verb that refers to a clinging, erotic love. But Jesus, using the verb *agape*, turns it around and makes it flow out: “Feed my sheep.” describing a love that is the deep mutual indwelling of self-emptying love that flows outward..

This is the love at the heart of Jesus’ path and the love through which his presence among us will always make itself known.

HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE JESUS’ PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES?



Mary Magdalen has vigiled long and hard. She has stood by Jesus until the end, bearing witness when all others had deserted. On the morning of the Resurrection, she has returned faithfully to anoint his body. When she sees the gardener, she can’t comprehend, remaining intent upon recovering his physical body. Then he calls her by name, “Mary” and in a torrent of ecstasy, she awakens. “Rabboni, my Beloved,” she cries. The scales are lifted from her eyes. Only when she stops looking for a dead body, does she recognize the intangible aliveness of her risen Lord.

As with Mary Magdalen, so with the eye of our hearts awakens, what once tripped us up—our fear, doubt, or craving—no longer does so. The walls between the realms are paper thin and mutually permeable by love. In the risen Christ, we can begin to live our temporal lives in the fullness of eternity.

HOW AND WHEN DO WE RECOGNIZE THIS INTANGIBLE ALIVENESS, THIS LIVING RELATIONAL PRESENCE DWELLING AMONG US? PRESENT NOW?