

God proves his love for us,
that while we were sinners Christ died for us



Let Go of the Crayon

Read: John 20:1-18

In this week's gospel we hear the story of Jesus' triumphant resurrection on Easter morning. The tomb is found empty, the disciples are summoned, they rush to the grave, but, "they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead." The disciples just didn't get it. They couldn't see the whole picture. Yet.

A while back I was visiting my nieces. We were all coloring when Emily triumphantly held up her paper and examined, "It's a bunny!" I assure the reader that it was not a bunny. It was a couple of misshapen circles coloured outside of the lines. But it was her masterpiece.

This got me thinking. God gives each of us a piece of paper and a crayon. We can scribble away and create whatever we want. We think that the pictures we produce will make us happy. But so often the things we draw turn out rather messy and we colour outside of the lines. God comes along and says, "Here, let me help you. I can show you how to create a beautiful picture" We immediately recoil and proclaim, "it's my crayon!" There have been many times in my life when I have relentlessly clung to my crayon. Times I have held onto anger, pride, my idea of happiness, my own empty ambitions, my concept of who God is and what he "owed" me. Times where I hated the picture he was drawing before my eyes. The funny thing is, that when I let God take control, the finished product was greater than anything I could have imagined.

But how often are we like the disciples? How often do we fail to get it? How many times have we refused to give God our crayon? Yet God loves us, died for us, calls us his friends, and only wants what's best for us. It takes times for us to get that and to see things his way. But God is patient. He has something wonderful in store. That's the hope of the resurrection. That's what Easter is about. Bringing new life to an old picture. But only if you let go of the crayon.

Reflection: What crayons are you holding onto?