

“The Resurrection of the Body”
1 April 2018
Little Trinity Anglican Church, Toronto

Discussion Questions

(take as many as you want, in any order)

Read John 20.1-10

1. Without worrying too much about what you think the “right answer” might be, what does the promise of “eternal life” mean to you? Does it bring you hope? Why/how?
2. Every Sunday we recite either the Apostles’ or Nicene Creed, both of which declare a belief in the “resurrection of the body”. What role (if any) does bodily resurrection have in your vision (see question 1) of eternal life/afterlife/heaven/God’s kingdom/etc.? What would it mean for you to take seriously the resurrection of your *body*?
3. St. Augustine famously mused that in the resurrection we would all be 33 years old (Jesus’ age when he died...so it must be the best year!) and in perfect health. How do you imagine the resurrected body? Given that our experience of bodies is fundamentally related to time (we age and die), how can we think about being embodied *eternally* and *imperishably*? (This is all speculative so there’s no right answer – but help each other by referring to any scriptural texts that come to mind. Col 3.1-4 and 1 Cor 15 may be a useful start.)
4. The sermon spent significant time reflecting on the idea that we do not “have” bodies, but that we “are” bodies. What’s the relationship, for you, between body and faith? Is your body a hindrance? A distraction? A vehicle? Indispensable? Do you relate to God with/through your body? Do any particular postures (kneeling, raised hands, etc.) or gestures (e.g. signing the cross) affect you spiritually – or is your spiritual life more a matter of head/heart?
5. Do you like/enjoy your body? Or: *what* do you like/enjoy (and not) about your body? How does your answer to this question relate to your faith and the promise of bodily resurrection?
6. Arguing that genuine love reveals the indispensability of the body, the sermon asked which bodies you love/have loved best, which bodies you miss, and which parts of those bodies rise in your minds/memories to stand in for the whole (e.g. feel of whiskers, smell of skin, etc.). Listen to each other answer these questions.
7. What do you make of the fact that Easter morning is the one Sunday Gospel lesson in the lectionary where Jesus’ body is entirely absent from the reading?
8. How might the resurrection of the body relate to in/justice – that is, the various ways, good and bad, in which people’s bodies are treated/handled/dealt with? Where in Toronto do you see injustice done to bodies?
9. The sermon proposed that the resurrection means that who Jesus was is who Jesus is, and who Jesus is is who we will be. What do you make of this? Who, then, will we be?