

I imagine the disciples felt a bit like being on an emotional roller coaster as they once more experienced Jesus physically leaving them as he was lifted up into clouds.

Our dear friend and former parishioner Jennifer Halling OSB writes a spiritual blog entitled *The Monastic Call*. Today's reflection on the Ascension is entitled "Our Call to Fulfill Jesus Dream." Jennifer suggests that "Jesus knew that as long as he was in the world, his disciples would stay dependent on him instead of venturing out to fulfill their own calling."

The children and I spent much of our time together in Faith Formation reflecting on what does it mean to live their unique calling to embody God's dream. That image of embodying God's Reign became central to my understanding of living as a Christian in the world and I often wondered why it took so long in my life to recognize that being co-creators of God's Reign is central to the Gospel.

I liked sharing with the children Archbishop Desmond Tutu's reflection on *God's Dream*. "Each of us carries a piece of God's heart and when we love one another the pieces of God's heart are made whole. . . Dear Child of God, do you know how to make God's dream come true? It's really quite easy. As easy as sharing, loving, caring, As easy as holding, playing, laughing. As easy as knowing we are family because we are all God's children." or as St. Paul writes in his letter to the people of Ephesus, "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love."

All of this reminds me of the Jewish image of living in God's Reign embodied in the words "Tikkun Olam", repairing the world through acts of kindness. This Jewish image reminds us that we are God's partners. We are called to heal the world.

Blessings as you venture forth.

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