

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 2008

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"The music is all around you. All you have to do is listen".

These lines of dialogue come from a movie I've seen three times in the past month. The film's name is "August Rush". It's not one that I had heard much about before seeing it but it's captured my imagination. It tells the story of a young boy who has spent the first eleven years of his life in an "orphanage". He doesn't know who his parents are, he's never seen them but he believes without seeing that they are somewhere and that they will find him if he does not find them first. Oh, and by the way the young boy is a musical prodigy. He hears the music of the universe. All the sounds that he hears are translated into music for him. His story is more about "hearing" than seeing. Although he does not see his parents, he believes in his heart that they are there for him. Somehow the music, he hears, opens him up to know that there is a life force that unites him to those he loves and who love him.

The film is very heartwarming. Each time I have seen it I end up a "sobby bobby" and my purpose in mentioning it is not that you go "rush" out and see it but rather to say that this story enabled me to hear the music of the scriptures today.

In one sense in the scriptures today, the primary melody we hear is one that sings of "seeing". The disciples "see" Jesus in the upper room and Thomas who is not there wants to see for himself before he will believe the outlandish claim that Jesus is risen from the dead. But there is a counterpoint to the theme of seeing, it's "not seeing". "Blessed are those who have not seen and still believe" Or as St Peter says, "Although you have not seen him, you love him. Even though you do not see him now, yet you believe in him. You rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,! The encounter with

the Risen Jesus is more like August Rush's "hearing the music all around you" All you have to do is listen". And what do we hear when we listen? We hear the song of the Risen Jesus, which is Peace be with you. Peace be with you. Receive the Spirit.

As much as we would like to know what the disciples "saw" in those encounters with the risen Jesus, we don't know. Even the gospel writers have a difficult time giving us an image of Jesus who is very much like he was and yet not limited by the laws of time and space that control our physical world. (he comes to them, he is there in their midst despite the locked doors) Their vision of Jesus can not be translated well in human terms but what they hear, the music of the Risen Lord's voice can be. The words that are music to their ears are Peace be with you, Receive the Holy Spirit, Peace be with you.

Although we can not imagine what the appearance of the Risen Lord "looked like", what the disciples "saw", what can be seen and imagined is the impact that the Risen Lord Jesus' presence makes on these disciples, in a way like a powerful piece of music opens our ears and our hearts and get's us singing along. Their fear is turned to indescribable joy. A community that had been fragmented is brought together again. Whatever happened to those disciples it totally transformed them.

Have you seen that kind of joy and delight lately? Have you seen someone's face filled with incredible joy or peace? Have you heard words of healing and forgiveness or spoken them? Have you been found your place in a community of friends in the lord? Have you been strengthened in your faith because of the witness of others? Have you heard the music of Jesus in your life, singing and playing, Life, Hope and Love.

If we really believe in the Risen Jesus' presence in our lives and the difference he makes then we

need to let the joy, the peace, the love, the forgiveness we have received be seen

The music of the Resurrection is all around us. We only have to listen. The Risen Lord Jesus is all around us. We not only have to listen but we have to let the world know by our love!