



## The Cathedral of St. Andrew - Honolulu

### Sermon: Year A – Third Sunday in Easter, April 30, 2017

The Reverend Canon R. K. “Moki” Hino,

I remember when I was studying to become a priest and spent a weekend at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois where we were talking about this Gospel reading, the Road to Emmaus. The instructor told us that the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday was an instructional time, telling us what we needed to do after Jesus leaves us. Then he said, “Contrary to popular belief, the Last Supper was not the first Eucharist. The first Eucharist was in Emmaus, because it was then that the *Risen* Lord was known to the disciples in the breaking of the bread.”

Years later I still remember what that professor said. And so I was excited to travel the Road to Emmaus, albeit by van and not on foot, when I was in the Holy Land several years ago. I knew that we were going to have a Eucharist and that it would be in the place where the first Eucharist was actually held, according to that professor at Mundelein.

And then to top it all off, the chaplain at St. George’s College asked if I would be willing to preside. I was stunned. A couple of days later we traveled to Abu Gosh, a place along the Road to Emmaus that is one of the four posited sites of the actual Emmaus. We got to this Catholic church on a hillside and I was told not to worry because the nuns there would set me up with the right vestments and what have you.

But when we got there, there was another group inside the main church and they were taking a long time, because they were singing a lot of hymns. And while we were waiting, I happened to notice a small outdoor chapel on the edge of the grounds and I asked the nun if we could possibly hold our Eucharist there and she said yes. And so I went with my fellow pilgrims and presided at an outdoor Eucharist atop a hill overlooking the valley where the Road to Emmaus probably was. And as an added bonus, we were given the backdrop of the city of Jerusalem in the distance as we worshipped and knew the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread.



We can glean a lot of meaning and significance from the story of Jesus’ appearance to the disciples on the Road to Emmaus.

## Easter 3 – April 30, 2017, cont'd

Some of them include:

- The realization that the Lord is risen and in our midst
- That when at first we are kept from recognition, a deeper knowing will ensue
- That when Christ vanishes after he's known in the breaking of the bread, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- That the hospitality in which the disciples engaged with Jesus is a doorway to grace because it takes trust and hope to see the Risen Lord

The Road to Emmaus is a road of broken dreams that are made whole by the presence of the Risen Lord made known in the breaking of the bread. But the one that I like the best is that the Road to Emmaus is a journey, and the culmination of the journey of Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem to God's right hand.

And so it begs the question: What is Galilee? To me, Galilee is a place of public ministry, much of which is healing and teaching. And because of Galilee, you and I are called to listen and learn, and to grow in our faith and our experience of Jesus Christ.

What is Jerusalem? To me, Jerusalem is a place of self-sacrifice, the place where Jesus gives up his life and carries his cross to the place of his death. And because of Jerusalem, you and I are called to surrender to certain things, most especially to God's will for us as disciples of mission and ministry in a desperate and needy world. We may have to give up our egos in order to do that.

And what is the right hand of God? To me, the right hand of God means living into our baptismal covenant:

- To continue in the apostles teaching in fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers
- To persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever falling into sin, repenting and returning to the Lord.
- To proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ.
- To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.
- To strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.