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I learned so much from the children at Vacation Bible School a few years back. I learned that the three most frightening things in the world are spiders, snakes, and Brussels Sprouts. I learned that the reason chickens sit on eggs is because they don't have chairs. When Angels come down from heaven they say, "I've got **good** news, and I've got **bad** news." I learned that God is like a laundry basket because you can give Him all your dirty stuff. And God is like a sponge because first He cleans you up and then he dries your tears. And I learned that the Bible is like Okra, because even if you

don't like it, it's still good for you. And finally I learned two other things: Examples of God's blessings to us are rainbows, butterflies, and cute people. And if you really want God to listen to you, you need to sing to Him.

These last two bits of timeless wisdom from those four-year olds – the observations about rainbows and singing put me in mind of the old **Wizard of Oz** song "Somewhere over the Rainbow." A few years back, Donna gave me a CD recorded by the amazing Ukulele crooner Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, the artist known as IZ. His version of "Somewhere over the Rainbow" is unforgettable, as he describes a land far beyond the clouds, that you can enter if you're willing to wish upon a star. It's a place where you leave your cares far behind you, a realm we are told where troubles melt like lemon drops, a place that exists out there, in the clear blue, way beyond the smoke of earthly chimneys.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a place like that really did exist? Wouldn't it be grand to just wash away the cares and worries of this earthly world with some kind of amazing bath? Wouldn't it be incredible to live in a world where nothing could ever really get at you, where nobody, no-way, no-how could rob you of your dreams; a place where the truth always won out? No matter how large a force of lies and deception was coming down the road straight at you, wouldn't it be amazing to know that, given enough patience, the guys in the white hats were always going to win?

Well, that's what this Sunday, Trinity Sunday is all about. It's time to shout "Halleluiah!" because Jesus is Lord. He has risen from the dead and, with this morning He has risen even farther, to the greatest heights of His heavenly kingdom. And He has taken his place at the right hand of the Father, and His reign has begun. Yes, indeed, the Trinity is once more complete in its everlasting dance of love, and the Godhead is in full glory. Halleluiah!

This day is what God intended all along, you know. It's all been leading up to this day. We heard the beginning of the story this morning. And surely, the world God created was indeed very, very good. (See Gen. 1:31) But God had already planned and prepared the end of the story too, even from that very first letting-be of light. Because, even though God created a world of goodness and light, He actually had in mind something even better. Something immensely more delicious, a world full of the joy, and colors, and dazzling light of rainbows, and unending victorious song; a realm ruled forever by the infinitely loving hand of His sweet Son.

And this reign of Jesus, what does it mean for you and me? Well for one thing, it means that no-one can rob us of our dreams, as long as we dream in Him. In fact, this Jesus invites, encourages his followers in the most outlandish dreams. (See Eph.3:20) This amazing Jesus, exhorts His followers to dream of and work toward that promised day when all nations will be the dwelling places of those who love him and each other with absolute joy. (see Is.65:17-25; Mt.28:19-20)

And this world, this incredible, outlandish world which this Lord Jesus exhorts us toward is a place where, by this wonderful bath-water of our Holy Baptism, we are indeed washed clean of every fault, every hurt, every sin, every bad thing we have ever said or done – washed clean by His precious blood. (See Rev.7:14, 22:14) If you and I could see the faithful in Christ with the eyes of heaven, we would see a shining people, washed as white as snow. (See Rev.7:9) That's what the Bible says.

And the reign of Jesus is a reign of absolute goodness. It is a kingdom where God's people are given great power to vanquish evil. In this beautiful concluding Chapter from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians the Apostle assures us that the Kingdom of God can never do anything against the truth but only for the truth." (see 2Cor.13:8) There's nothing anyone can really do that wounds, or hurts, or tears down God's truth or His Kingdom. And if you think that anyone has ever done anything that has destroyed the truth, think again. Because the truth cannot be destroyed by the hand of mortal man. And anything that is ultimately good, and right, and peaceful, and beautiful can only and forever be of the truth.

This Kingdom of Jesus is indeed a place where, given enough patience, and enough faith the truth always comes out on top – that's Scriptural too. (See Jn.8:32)

Oh, the corrupt, and the crooked, and the violent, and the oppressors, they will flourish for a time. But that season in the timetable of God – the season of prosperity for those who do evil – that season is fleeting and soon over. They shall be cut down like grass, the evil doers. They shrivel up like tender grass when it is exposed to the full light of noonday, and they are burnt away. That's in the Bible too. (See Ps.37:1-2) But in the Kingdom where Jesus reigns, the righteous flourish like a mighty tree planted by the river waters. And they shall not be moved. (See Ps.1:3; Jer.17:8)

This Kingdom of Jesus, where is it? Can you find it? Can you find the path that leads to it? Well, here's the amazing thing: You don't have to. You see, this Kingdom of Jesus is already here. Because the Kingdom of Jesus is not a place that you live in. You see, the Kingdom of Jesus is a place that lives in **you**. And the wonderful thing about that is, if you're a citizen of the Kingdom of Jesus – if you let this wonderful, glorious reign into your heart, you never have to leave it, because you always take it with you, and no one can take it from you.

One more thing about this wonderful place which is the Kingdom of Jesus. It will never die. Oh, you and I, we will all die to this world someday. But once you become a citizen of the Kingdom of Jesus, it lasts forever. Because the faithful in Christ are assured that Jesus is with us to the end of days, and we with Him, in His wonderful, amazing, glorious, everlasting Kingdom.

Halleluiah! Praise the Lord. For it's Trinity Sunday. The reign of Jesus has begun, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Amen.

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