

Salt – Light – Hope

reflections and care for those who serve in pandemic
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April 12 Easter Sunday



On Easter, the stone, miraculously rolled away from an empty tomb, transfixes us in renewed promise. Even as he prepares to ascend to heaven, we pull to us that Christ who will be Easter in us, be that dayspring to our dimness, One who gives hope and life for transformation. Easter

Life is renewed life, different from the old life, because it is filled with hope and courage even in our woundedness.

The British poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, ordained to the Jesuit priesthood in 1877, served as missionary, occasional preacher, and parish priest in various Jesuit churches and institutions in London, Oxford, Liverpool, and Glasgow and taught classics at Stonyhurst College, Lancashire. In the year of his ordination he wrote "God's Grandeur," a celebratory poem proclaiming that God has imbued nature with an eternal freshness that is able to withstand the heavy burden of humanity, a freshness brought about by an indwelling God, an Easter God.

God's Grandeur

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.