

THE TWINS' STORY

It seems that in all places and in all times people have believed in or at least had some hope for continued life beyond life as we know it here. That is expressed in many and varied rituals over the history of so many cultures. The Christian tradition names this forthrightly as Resurrection.

Questions are always present: what is this continued life like? What will we look like? what will we be doing? The response is "It will be different".

Perhaps the following parable is helpful.

A mother conceived twins. One child was a girl; the other a boy.

Months passed, and they developed.

As they grew they sang for joy: "Isn't it great to be alive!"

Together they explored their mother's womb.

When they found their mother's life cord, they shouted for joy:

"How great is our mother's love, that she shares her own life with us!"

Soon the twins began to change drastically. "What does this mean?" asked the boy.

"It means that our life in the womb is coming to an end," said the girl.

"But I don't want to leave the womb," said the boy. "I want to stay here forever."

"We have no choice," said the girl. "But maybe there is life after birth."

"How could that be," asked the boy. "We will shed our mother's cord, and how is life possible without it? Besides, there's evidence in the womb that others were here before us,

and none of them ever came back to tell us that there is life after birth. No, this is the end."

And so the boy fell into despair, saying, "If life in the womb ends in death, what's its purpose?

What's its meaning?"

And so the last days in the womb were filled with deep questioning and fear.

Finally the moment of birth arrived.

When the twins opened their eyes, they cried for joy.

What they saw exceeded their wildest dreams.

And they were loved by those who had loved them all along, but whom they had not yet come to know fully.

Yes, we have been through one dramatic change of ending and beginning already. And we even use the same language sometimes: 'being born to eternal life'.