



Justin Matherly, (Untitled) *Fear Anxiety Joy*, 2016

*New seeing can lead to new believing. New thinking and believing can lead to new seeing. Seeing and believing are mutually interdependent, and beneficial to one another, just as are knowing and loving. ~> This is important for people who feel incomplete, frozen in place, and immobile.*

*None* of the eleven (including Thomas), *nor* any of the first women to visit the tomb, *believed* until *after* they *saw* Jesus. Yet, so far as we know, Jesus does *not* physically appear to people in our own day. So, *we can't make believing dependent on seeing in the same way as did Jesus' first followers.* There are 3 important reasons for this:

*First*, in his Ascension, *Jesus went from being only in one place, at one time, to being in all places, all the time.* And he made the transition from being only with some people at one time, to being with all people all the time. Now, we can *all* know, and be with, him *at the same time.*

*Second*, the Disciples were at first not prepared to accept that *Jesus would suffer and die, much less rise again.* We are in a very different place from them. For we have benefitted from *their* reflection on experiencing the Risen Jesus, and how this transformed their reading of Scripture. We can *now* see, as *they at first could not*, how Jesus' death and resurrection were *part of a larger divine plan* for salvation history.

*Third*, there is *another* way our perception differs from the Disciples hiding behind locked doors. For *we now see the Risen Jesus in ourselves and in each other.* This is a critical difference between our experience and theirs. For we see the Risen Lord in each other, and this leads to our believing. As a result, both our children, and newcomers to our community, can see the Resurrection in us, and can come to believe, as well.