

continues to live in you, in me, and in so many others whose experience and understanding are expanded and enriched because of her.

The trouble is that she is gone from us—too soon and too suddenly. Deborah is at home now in a new place, the place, time, dimension—whatever, wherever it is—that we call heaven. Where there is no more death, where mourning and crying and pain are no more, but fullness of joy. Where her life is changed, not ended. Where she goes from strength to strength, still growing in knowledge and love, seeing the Holy now face to face.

But we are here. We are *here* because we have been touched, directly or indirectly, by her life, and by her death. Our hearts are troubled. How could they not be troubled in the face of this great loss.

Their hearts, too, were troubled, and they were afraid. The disciples were troubled and afraid of what their life would be without their teacher and friend who would soon be gone from them; who was as good as dead already. How could they possibly be consoled? How could they go on without him?

“Believe in God,” he said, “believe also in me.” “Believe” not in the sense of doctrine or creeds, but believe in the sense of *trust*.

This is a very tender conversation Jesus is having with the disciples. They are his friends, gathered around the table with him. He is calling them back to their center. *Don't be afraid. You know me. You can trust me even when things are happening that you do not understand, even when everything seems to be falling apart.*

“I will not leave you orphaned,” he said; “I am coming to you.” And come to them he did, as he promised, after he was raised from death and the grave to new life. We may think of resurrection and eternal life as something that happens only after we die. But eternal life as Jesus knows and speaks of it in the Gospel according to John is not only after death; it is *now*, in this life. Eternal life is the abundant life he came to bring into the world, here and now, even in the face of the mystery and pain of death.

When we are alive, we are alive to God and in God. Jesus told his disciples, and all who have come after them, “. . . I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.” (14:20) All are one in the life of God. We are not alone or abandoned.

We are held here in the strength and love of community:

The community of the Church
The community of journalists, the “industry”
The universities Peter and Deborah have served and supported
The community of family, neighbors, friends.

The same power and love of the Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the dead and gives new life now to Deborah, gives life and strength to every community that is grounded in love and

good will, that seeks the well being, growth and health not only of its own members but of all people.

It is that power and love that hold us now, and give us confidence to speak a word of praise and joy as even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.