**Easter Vigil Homily by Father Mike**

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Tonight we become the great travelers through history. We journey with God as our guide. We hear the Lord call out, “Let there be light.” And so it is. It is light without sun, moon or stars for they are not created until the fourth day. It is the light of God shinning forth; it is the light of God illuminating all that is and will be. So we begin our journey with the light of God to guide us. Day after day we experience the new and wonderful: the earth and the seas, plants and animals, companions for this journey and to rest in the presence of the Lord. We call out “Are we there yet?” “No not yet,” is the reply.

We remember how the Lord has chosen us from among all the people and He never leaves us even though we have turned away from Him. He gives us a leader, Moses, to show us a way through the desert of sin and despair, in the midst of our fear he raised up his staff and bids us go forth. He frees us from slavery and set us on the path to freedom. Who is this God who loves us so? We call out, “Are we there yet?” “No not yet,” is the reply.

Throughout the journey He sends us prophets who share his word but we turn away from them and, over and over again, we look to comfort ourselves. We wander far from the path He has shown us. Our God will not give up on us. He promises to transform our hearts to be like his, He will give us His Spirit. We call out, “Are we there yet?” “No not yet,” is the reply.

For our God has so much for us to see and learn and do. There are no short-cuts, cliff notes, or Wikipedia. For our journey is a journey through death to life. We die with the Lord and rise with Him through the gift of Baptism. We witnessed His death on the cross, His burial in the tomb. We call out, “Are we there yet?” “No not yet,” is the reply.

We go to the tomb but He is not there, for He always goes before us, He meets us on the road, He greets us in locked rooms, He feeds us on the shore, and He knocks us down so to raise us up. He nourishes us with His body and blood. He strengthens us with His Spirit. He call us to live in union with one another and to commit ourselves to be of service to one another. We call out, “Are we there yet?” “No not yet,” is the reply.

He is the God of the forever. He is the God whose journey never comes to an end, and as St. Agustine says our hearts will not rest until we rest in Him. We call out, “Are we there yet?” Only you can answer the call.