

# Second Hand Preacher

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

April 3, 2016

**Revelation 1: 9-11a, 12-13, 17-19**

Have you ever had a vivid dream? One that was so real that you weren't sure if you were awake or asleep. Sometimes this can happen in prayer as well. When we quiet the soul, we may be amazed at what comes out. We know that God can come to us in many and varied ways. Sometimes I get homily ideas that just flow through me. At times they go so fast that I can barely remember enough to write them down. Big decisions can often be made by these visions we get. Not always, but most of the time, the thoughts thrust into my head during prayer work out for me. This might not happen in the way I plan it, but I need to trust that God will provide.

Our second reading from the Book of Revelation has disputed authorship. It was written most likely after St. John died. The book was written in the style of John's Gospel, but there are differences that one may expect from authorship of a disciple of John. Often, people that came after well-known writers used the name of the one they followed. This occurs for St. Paul as well. We can learn a great deal about these early Christian communities by the way they present the Paschal Mystery. The author of Revelation starts out with a vision. He sees Jesus and worships him. The Jesus of John is very powerful and rightly deserves utmost respect. Jesus says those famous words of Scripture, "Do not be afraid."

Those words were meant for John's community and for us today. God can seem so huge, but he also wants to have a personal relationship with each of us. There are many things to fear in our world, but Jesus has overcome the world. We need to be cautious in the face of evil, but we also need to trust in the one who loved us first.