

From the Pastor

As we plan for our Seder and our Maundy Thursday service, and as we look through the darkness towards the hope of Easter, I hope that each one of us allows ourselves to acknowledge dark times in our lives and in our world. Yet I also hope that each one of us holds on to the hope of new life that comes. I hope that we all trust in the promise that crucifixion isn't the final answer but new life is. I hope that we all will be open to this newness of life however it may appear to us, whether in a new birth, a new phase of a relationship, new ministries, new confidence and sense of purpose. In each of the ways that new life will be around us, I hope that we see Easter, see Jesus and his life affirmed, in them.

As I continue to experience life, it seems for me more and more that Jesus appears to us in the ordinary moments of life, more than in dramatic moments. Author Frederick Buechner has written:

Jesus is apt to come, into the very midst of life at its most real and inescapable. Not in a blaze of unearthly light, not in the midst of a sermon, not in the throes of some kind of religious daydream, but... at supper time, or walking along a road. This is the element that all the stories about Christ's return to life have in common: Mary waiting at the empty tomb and suddenly turning around to see somebody standing there - someone she thought at first was the gardener; all of the disciples except Thomas hiding out in a locked house and then his coming and standing in the midst; and later, when Thomas was there, his coming again and standing in the midst; Peter taking his boat back after a night at sea and there on the shore, near a little fire of coals, a familiar figure asking, "Children, have you any fish?"; the two men at Emmaus who knew him in the breaking of bread. He never approached them from on high, but always in the midst, in the midst of people, in the midst of real life and the questions that real life asks.

My hope for all of us is that after the sound of the trumpet turns silent, as the fragrance of the lilies fades, we experience Christ in our ordinary, day-to-day experiences. And may we be filled with God's grace to be Christ to one another.

Peace,
Pastor Lynn

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