

“MINISTER’S Message”

March 28, 2018

Easter Greetings!

The Easter story - one many know by heart, we hold it in our hearts. Yet each year, we share it again - and it becomes new, renewing our hearts and our spirits - and I don't know if it is so for you, but for me - after the long dark days of winter, my heart and soul have been so ready for this season of Easter, and the joyful celebration of life, new life, life abundant in the community of God. In fact, as I write this piece, I have just returned from still MORE snow shoveling! I just keep reminding myself that wonderful things will emerge from that ground soon, especially since it's been blessed with so much moisture!

Whatever affects one affects all. There are different versions of the Easter story told by the different gospel writers. That's not so strange, though, is it? Take any experience shared by a group, and you'll have as many versions of what really happened as you have people telling the story - even today.

For each of us brings something of ourselves to any story, to any experience. To me, that is part of the wonder and mystery of community story.

The writer of Mark's gospel has Mary Magdalene, Mary, mother of James, and Salome going to the tomb that morning of the third day to anoint Jesus' body - only to discover the stone rolled away, the body gone. They encounter, instead, an angel, who assures them not to be afraid, but to go and tell others. Yet Mary and her friends, out of fear, the story says, tell no one. I like to think that they do go and tell - they just need a little time to let what they've experienced make sense, to become real. For we know, people did learn of Jesus' rising, the news did get shared.

In John's gospel, Mary first believes Jesus to be a gardener, until he speaks her name - and then, there is recognition, surprise, and joy.



The stories of that morning, they are stories for us too. Stories of joy, if we hold on to the hope that death is not an end, but a new beginning.

Let that be the good news for us, in this season, and in every day. In those times of shadow in our lives, let us remember that the Spirit lives among us, that we are not ever alone. Thanks be to God for the hope that comes with the resurrection story.

Blessings and Peace,

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