Pastor’s Pieces April 2024

“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” - Psalm 95:1–2 Easter! I love that we have a whole SEASON of Easter – a week of weeks – 7 weeks – to rejoice in the Good News of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Of course, every Sunday of the year (the first day of the week) is a celebration of His resurrection, but this season brings with it a special emphasis on the great mystery of our faith: “Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again”, as we say together in one of the prefaces to Holy Communion. Among the reasons to love the Season of Easter are the great hymns of the season: “Christ has Arisen, Alleluia!”; “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”; “This Joyful Eastertide”; and, “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” to name a few. So, why is it that the attendance at worship traditionally falls off after Easter Sunday? Those of us in leadership positions in the church have often pondered that very question. We love it when the whole congregation gathers together. We call it “a good Sunday.” Of course, EVERY Sunday is good. Every day that The Lord gives us is good. Every chance to worship and praise Him is very good! In the back of our property is a woods. As the days begin to warm and the ground lets fresh shoots of grass and other green appear, there is more activity, too. Dan and I love to watch the birds, the deer, even squirrels and bunnies enjoy the bounty that God provides. (We might not enjoy so much when they munch our tulips and young tomato plants, though.) But we didn’t see them so much until it warmed. God sees us, of course, wherever we are. He knows our “going out and our coming in”, as the psalmist says (Psalm 121:8). God’s love for you will never falter or fail. Through every season of the year and every season of your life, He loves you with an unfailing love. It’s that love that we celebrated in the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. It’s that love that we recognized in Christ’s obedience in His going to the cross and bearing our sins. It’s THAT love that raised Jesus to life on the third day and holds forth the promise of our resurrection as we walk in faith. It is that love that we acknowledge and celebrate every Sunday in Chistian Worship. The love that will not let us go is also the love that stirs us to come together and not neglect this fellowship.

See you on Sunday!

Serving with joy, Pastor Lisa+