



The Anglican Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth

Reverend Carrie writes ...

Dear friends in Christ,

On this last weekend of Lent, having just celebrated Palm Sunday, and starting our Holy Week, I am mindful that the Celebration of Easter is an entire season — 50 days long and, dear friends, we need it now more than ever. We need a season of resurrection, of new life, of new beginnings, of leaving some old ways behind and claiming some new ways. Hope is springing up in the midst of social distancing, Holy Week at Home practices and pandemic style worship! For as much as we may lament the cancellation or postponement of many things, there is no cancelling Easter, or on-line Church, quiet time with God, praying for the sick, checking on a friend, helping others, and being Church! Being Church is so much more than just gathering in our buildings, and while we have been unable to do that for over a year now, we are still the Church.

From the hope of Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the humble beauty of the last supper, the poignant washing of the disciple's feet, the despair of Judas's betrayal and Peter's abandonment, the horror of the cross, the grief of death, ... what awaits the women who come to the tomb on Easter morning has the power to turn all grief into joy!

He is Risen! Mary Magdalene, after finding Jesus risen, runs back and tell the disciples, "Life overcame death." The stories that follow the day of Resurrection are the ways we come to know Jesus in a new way. In those early days of the "new normal," the followers of Jesus

continue to be surprised by his presence, and Jesus continues to speak to them with these powerful words, "Peace be with you. Do not be afraid" and "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The one who said, "I am the Light" told his disciples, "You are the Light, Go and Tell, Be the Hope." We, like those early disciples, have been called to be the light, to tell the Good News, to proclaim that He is Risen and to be His Church in this place and in this time!

The story of Easter calls us to be the Church, to proclaim this hope in anxious and uncertain times as well as in times of great prosperity and joy. The Christ Light never goes out, and we are sharing it in new ways in our communities. N. T. Wright wrote,

"Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present." May our life journey be one of Hope lived and Hope shared, and our song of Alleluia be heard around the world.

Blessings on your Holy Week and Easter Season,

Carrie



Building Relationships with the Diocese of

Amazonia (from our March 2020 newsletter)

The Dioceses of Huron and Amazonia have been companions for a number of years. Huron and Amazonia have been exploring ways that we might work together. The Deanery of the Saugeens discussed options, and expressed a desire to partner with one of their communities. The Diocese of Amazonia encompasses a huge geographical area in Brazil. They must be very careful with



the modest resources at their disposal. Each of their church buildings is filled to capacity, but the cost of expansion is prohibitive for them. Our partnership would open up new possibilities for the Divino Salvador mission congregation, in a small but growing community which is located in Ulianopolis, several hundred kilometres away from Balem. Their mission is primarily focused on serving

young families and children in their city. A group of volunteers is currently offering after-school programming for local children. The Rev. Claudio Miranda (the mission priest) and Bishop Marinez have a dream of expanding the church building to create a safe space that can accommodate 100 children. It will enable them to welcome and support more children in their community. The financial goal for this project is a modest \$15000. It was originally thought that our Deanery would raise the necessary funds over the next three years, and forward the funds to them

in 2023. However, we wondered why we should wait three years. The Deanery negotiated a three year, interest-free loan from our Diocese, allowing us to launch the project in 2020, and watch the progress that develops over the next three years. It is the deanery goal to collectively raise the \$15000 in creative and fun ways over three years.

Last March, we asked for ways that our Regional Ministry might band together to help out in this fantastic mission

project. Then, the pandemic struck, preventing us from engaging in fundraising. We are asking for your help with a donation to this very worthwhile project. A special envelope is included in your Holy Week in a Bag package. Thank you for your consideration of supporting this new relationship with our companion diocese! Let your heart soar this Easter with a donation!

Tired of Mailing Cheques? A 21st Century Offering Suggestion:

Our Church Community is blessed by the generosity of many parishioners. In some cases, this means responding to needs as they emerge, but in others, this means making a specific commitment for the annual work of the church and treating it as part of the monthly budget, like rent, hydro or telephone. For years, many of us have been used to having recurring monthly expenses for utilities deducted automatically from our chequing accounts at the same time every month, but did you know you can do the same for your church?

We have a plan administered by the Diocese. All it takes is completion of an authorization form for either deduction from your bank account or charge to your credit card. It is simple, safe and secure. And with pandemic restrictions continuing, it's easier and safer than either mailing or dropping off a cheque at the church.

Check diohuron.org for more information or contact either warden or the treasurer to obtain the applicable form.

On Letting Easter In:

After the Sabbath, and toward dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And suddenly there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone....the angel spoke...."There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen,...go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead and now he is going ahead of you to Galilee; that is where you will see him.' Look! I have told you." Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. And suddenly, coming to meet them, was Jesus.

(Matthew 28:1-9)

On Easter morning should you be surprised to find Jesus coming to meet you? But what if you didn't know it was Easter? What if there had never been an Easter morning before? What if it was the day after the most sorrowing day you had ever experienced, the day after that painful Sabbath when he had lain in the tomb, dead? Dead as your hopes and dreams! Dead as your joy! Dead as the life you once felt!

Is it so amazing then – this trembling awe we felt? We came to the tomb to find him dead as our hearts, but an angel was there with a story of *life*. If you're wondering what Easter really is – it's finding leaven in a dough that was dead. It is despair moving over to make room for hope. It is joy suddenly crowding out your sorrow. It is a tomb transformed into a womb – life pushing its way out of death. It is the stone being rolled away on the morning of a great sorrow. The angel of life at the tomb of death!



*When dawn stands still with wonder
when birds jubilate in the trees
when buds hurry into blossoms
and grass starts wearing green
I always know that Easter wants to
come again.*

*But deeper yet and richer still
When Jesus, imprisoned in me,
asks me to roll away the stone
that locks him in
then Easter wants to come again.*

*So, let it come
It's one dawn past rising time
and Resurrection is the wildest news
that's ever touched
this crazy, mixed-up world.*

*It says, yes!
when everything else says, no!
It says, up!
when everything else says, down!
It says, live!
when everything else says, die!*

*Easter's standing at your door again,
so don't you see that stone has got to
go?*

*that stone of fear
of selfishness and pride
of greed and blindness
and all the other stones we use
to keep Jesus in the tomb.*

*So here's to rolling stones away
to give our Lord the chance He needs
to rise and touch
a troubled, lonely world.
Some call it Resurrection.
It's wild with wonder,
It's beautiful and real
Intent on throwing life around
it touches and it heals!*

*Yes, Easter, you can come
An angel of life I'll be
I'll roll the stone away
and set you free.*

Becky Peters

*St. Paul's Resource Centre librarian
(From Seasons of Your Heart: Prayers
and Reflections by Macrina
Wiederkehr, 1991)*

From the Priest Assistant's Pew

A word that came to mind as I prepared to write this article was "emergence". I don't know why this word just wouldn't leave me alone but as I spent some time with it I noticed so much in my world, well, emerging!

I had the joy of sitting on my front porch earlier today enjoying warm spring sunshine and looking at my garden, which only over a week ago still had snow on it. What did I see but the pointy spikes of the tulips I carefully planted in the fall. In the back yard the snowdrops, which always bring me joy, are in full bloom! Even the baby crocus are coming up and offering their purpleness to be enjoyed. They truly are emerging - merging from their dark world to one of light! Thinking on this brought me joy.

The word, emergence, signifies to me, that the old is not gone but simply a memory and there is newness with anticipation of what is to come. Yes, there is fear in the unknowing of what is coming up for us and the world around until it actually emerges. Like the tulips in my garden as they reach for the sky, the plan is to bloom and grow but they too may not know what they will encounter! Hmm. What does that sound like? Well, us I hope!

As we approach Easter Sunday this year we know the



darkness that has been and is the challenge of COVID. We know the pain of fasting from the Eucharist as long as we have. The quiet in our sparsely populated sanctuaries knowing the singing of hymns is happening only in our

homes leads us to hope even harder that we will be able to join together soon. This week we read that the Disciples are in their own time of confusion, darkness and perhaps even unbelief. Easter is when we see, first hand, the Resurrection of Our Lord in the readings and the impact that it had on those close to Him. We see the hope emerging of all that Jesus wanted us to be as followers of Him.

What else is emerging for you as we begin April? Is it hope? Is it grace? Is it peace? I hope so. We've been in the darkness with only glimmers of light and life for so long that the feeling we ARE actually going to emerge into the light again is so glorious. You know what's going to carry us to that place of light? It's faith. It is the faith that the risen Lord will emerge to be the

brightest guiding light that we can ever hope to have in our lives in this time.

May you emerge from this season of Lent to see the Light of Christ, Be the Light of Christ and carry the Light of Christ in your hearts and homes!

Shalom,

Rev. Annie

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