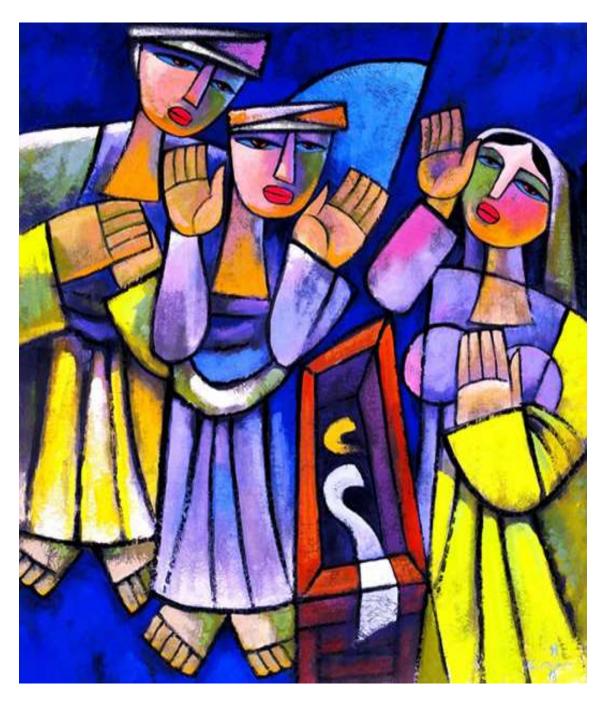
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

April 9th, 2023

Easter Sunday/Resurrection Sunday

A Service of the Word



The Empty Tomb

by artist, He Qi - He Qi Art https://www.heqiart.com/3-crucifixion--resurrection.html He Qi © 2021 All rights Reserved



April 9th, 2023

Easter Sunday/Resurrection Sunday
Service of the Word

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

Martin Luther

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*please stand as you are able,

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude - Betty Funk

*Call to Worship

One: Give thanks to our Good God whose unfailing love lasts forever!

Many: Give thanks to our Risen God whose unfailing love lives forever!

One: We gather together in the dawn of a new day. We look toward the tomb to seek

the Enfleshed Word.

Many: The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty! Alleluia!

One: We find God alive in the searching, in the garden, in our hope-filled spaces.

Many: Alleluia. Christ lives and finds us with unfailing love!

*Invocation

Resurrected God,
you are the God of new beginnings,
of new dawns and new mercies.
Enter into our presence again.
When we move toward the tomb,
remind us that you come with life.
When we despair at the world
unfolding around us,
assure us of your redemptive power.
When we long for your voice,
speak a word of hope,

encouragement, and peace.

May we reflect your image as resurrection people in covenant with you.

Amen.

*Hymn - NCH 233 - Christ the Lord Is Risen Today vv. 1, 2, & 4

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Author: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.
Word alterations © 1992 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
Source: Lyra Davidica, London, 1708, (Arr. from)
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1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

2 Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia! Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

CANDLE LITURGY Easter Sunday

Proclamation

(All candles are re-lit)

All: Alleluia, Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed!

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Act 10:34-43

For the season of Easter, often a reading from Acts is used instead of the Hebrew scriptures. The first selection from Acts 10 contains Peter's bold revelation from both a vision he beheld from God in vs. 9-16 and in his encounter with the Roman centurion Cornelius in 17-33. In the vision, God gave Peter food to eat that was both from clean and unclean animals, with the lesson that whatever God declared holy, others must not call profane. In Peter's conversation with Cornelius, a Gentile,

Peter understood that Cornelius's own encounter with the Holy Spirit was valid and true. There was no need for Cornelius to become Jewish, he knew God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. God shows no partiality between Jewish and Gentile, for Jesus is Lord of all. Peter and the other disciples were witnesses of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, and called to testify in his name. Peter confirmed that everyone who believes in Jesus may be forgiven of their sins through Christ's name.

10 34 So Peter said to them, "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality— 35 rather, that any person of any nationality who reveres God and does what is right is acceptable to God. 36 This is the message God has sent to the people of Israel, the Good News of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Savior of all.

37 "You yourselves know what took place throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John proclaimed. 38 You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the Devil, because God was with him. 39 We are eyewitnesses to all that Jesus did in the countryside and in Jerusalem. Finally, Jesus was killed and hung on a tree, 40 only to be raised by God on the third day. God allowed him to be seen, 41 not by everyone, but only by the witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God—that is, by us, who ate and drank with Christ after the resurrection from the dead. 42 And Christ commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that this is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 To Christ Jesus all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes has forgiveness of sins through this Name."

Psalm Response: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (Responsively)

Portions of Psalm 118 are read for both Palm Sunday and on Easter, with some overlap. The portion for Easter includes the declaration that God is the psalmist's strength, might, and salvation. Death will not have a hold on the people, for they will live with God as their God. Though the people of Israel have suffered, God did not allow them to die out, but instead, they have returned to worship as the psalmist calls them into the temple. The people rejected are now the foundation of the knowledge of God around the world, for God has chosen the people of Israel to demonstrate God's glory and salvation to all.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!Your love is everlasting!2 Let Israel say it:"Your love is everlasting!"

14 God is my strength and my song; God has become my salvation!

15 Raise shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the upright:
God's right hand is doing mighty acts!

16 God's right hand is winning;God's right hand is doing mighty acts!17 No, I will not die—I will live to proclaim the deeds of God;

- 18 though God has disciplined me often, I am not abandoned to Death.
- 19 open the gates of justice for me, let me come in and thank you, God!
- 20 This is the gate of God, and only the upright can enter!
- 21 thank you for hearing me, for saving me.
- 22 it was the stone which the builders rejected that became the keystone;
- 23 this is God's doing, and it is wonderful to see.
- 24 This is the day God has made—let us celebrate with joy!

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

These verses of Colossians 3 speak of the life of the Christian with the resurrected Christ. Believers always have a heavenly worldview. Christ has been revealed to the world, and therefore our lives are testimony to Christ's resurrection. We have already been raised from death as we walk this earth, for death has no hold on us.

3:1 Finally, my sisters and brothers, rejoice in Christ. To write the same things again is no burden for me, but I do it for your safety.

2 Beware of the dogs! Beware of the troublemakers! Beware of the mutilators, who insist that Gentile Christians must become circumcised! 3 We are the true circumcision—we are ourselves the sign of the Covenant—each and every one of us who worships in the Spirit of God and glories in Christ Jesus, rather than trusts in external signs.

4 Yet I can be confident even there! If they think they have the right to put their trust in external evidence, I have even more right!

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

In John's account of the resurrection, it was still dark on the first day of the week and Mary Magdalene was by herself when she came to the tomb and discovered the stone had been rolled back. Mary went to tell Peter and the beloved disciple, who then raced to the empty tomb. Though Peter went in first, the beloved disciple went in after, and he saw and believed. Nevertheless, both he and Peter went home because they did not understand the scripture. Only Mary remained, weeping. She looked into the tomb and saw two angels. They asked her why she was weeping, because Mary thought someone had taken Jesus's body. When she turned around, she thought she saw the gardener, who asked her the same question. She asked if he had taken the body to tell her where he had put it, so she could take care of the body. She kept asking questions. But then the gardener said her name, and she immediately recognized her teacher. Jesus warned her not to hold on to him,

but instead to go and tell the disciples that he had risen and would be ascending to Abba God.

Mary then announced to the disciples that she had seen the Teacher and what he had spoken to her.

Mary is known as the Apostle to the Apostles because she remained faithful and kept asking where

Jesus was, when the other disciples went home, and even the beloved disciple who believed.

A good teacher has students who ask good questions. And nevertheless, Mary persisted.

20 1 Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, 2 so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple—the one Jesus loved—and told them, "The Rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put Jesus!"

3 At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. 4 They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He didn't enter, but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. 6 Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground, 7 and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus' head lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. 9 As yet, they didn't understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.

11 Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, 12 and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus' body had lain.

13 They asked her, "Why are you weeping?" She answered them, "Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don't know where they have put the body."

14 No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. 15 He asked her, "Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, "Please, if you're the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you've laid the body and I will take it away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned to him and said, "Rabboni!"—which means "Teacher".

17 Jesus then said, "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, 'I'm ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!"

18 Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. "I have seen the Teacher!" she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

Choral Response – His Name Is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir,1959
Choir: Keith Konet, Bob Bucklew, and Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection - Have You Encountered the Risen Christ? - The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

*Prayer of Response

God of Death and Life,
Adversity and Hope,
we give thanks
for the celebration of Easter,
of the hope of resurrection,
the promise of new life
found in Jesus Christ our Lord.

May we remember
that eternal life begins here and now
and is not about life after death
but a life that is transformed
and transverses earth and heaven.
If we seek you,
may we search with all our heart
so that we may find you.

We pray that you would strengthen our hearts and strengthen our faith, for we know that there will be grief and pain in our lives ahead, but there is also great joy and comfort with you, and with one another.

Grant us the courage
to live into faith,
each and every day,
that you have risen
and give us the hope of new life,
now and forever.
Amen.

*Hymn - NCH 245 - The Day of Resurrection

The Day of Resurrection

Author: John of Damascus, 8th century Translator: John Mason Neale, 1862; alt. Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D. Composer: Henry T. Smart, 1836

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1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light; We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain, for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful,
let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen,
our joy that has no end.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Colossians 3:1-2 states, "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." In the giving of our gifts, we seek the kin-dom, we trust in the Provider, and we follow in the way of Jesus.

The Offertory - Betty Funk

*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Blessing of the Gifts

Giving God,
receive this portion of the gifts
you have given to us.
May our time, treasure, and talent
be magnified and multiplied
for your glory.
Amen.

Choral Hymn - NCH 238 - Now the Green Blade Rises

Author: John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.
Music: NOEL NOUVELET, French noel, 15th century
Harmonizer: Martin F. Shaw
Choir: Keith Konet, Bob Bucklew, and Barbara Rossington
Accompanist and Choir Director: Betty Funk

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer – using "debts" and "debtors"

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

GOING FORTH

*Parting Hymn – NCH 253 – Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One! (A toi la gloire, o Ressuscite!)

Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!

Author: Edmund L. Budry, 1094
Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993
Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with refrain
Composer: G.F. Handel, 1751

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1 Yours is the glory,
Resurrected One!
Endless is the victory
you o'er death have won.
Angels clothed in radiance
rolled the stone away;
conquered is the grave
in which your body lay.

Refrain:

Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.

2 See, it is Jesus,
Jesus has appeared;
do not doubt at all
for nothing you will fear.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing;
tell it without ceasing:
Death has lost its sting. [Refrain]

3 Am I still frightened?
One whom I adore,
Jesus lives again,
gives peace for evermore.
Jesus is my victory,
life and strength and Head;
Jesus is my glory,
nothing shall I dread. [Refrain]

*Commissioning and Benediction

One: Let us go with God into the world.

Many: We will offer healing and hope to all who wander in the shadows of life.

One: Let us go with Jesus to serve others.

Many: We will listen to those who are ignored; we will speak out for those are forgotten.

One: Let us go with the Spirit to share steadfast love.

Many: We will hold on to the fallen;

we will rebuild shattered communities.

^{*}Postlude - Betty Funk

* * * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Invocation, Call to worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes, and blessing of the gifts are adapted from Toward the Tomb: Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday written by The Rev Dr. Cheryl R. Lindsay Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Copyright 2023 Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship resources for April 9th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 31st, 2023, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. http://rev-o-lution.org/.
- (3) Candle Liturgy for Easter Sunday is adapted from Lenten Candle Liturgy, contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, and posted May 27, 2015, on the website, Process & Faith. https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy/
- (4) Commission and Benediction are adapted from *Alternate texts Liturgy w/communion from* April 9th, 2023-Easter-A written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted April 2nd, 2023, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/
- (5) Permission to stream music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All publishing rights reserved.

Ministers, All of Us Scott Rosenstein, Pastor Betty Funk, Pianist and Music Director Keith Konet, Council President Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ c/o Keith Konet 1039 Bridlewood Drive Copley, OH 44321

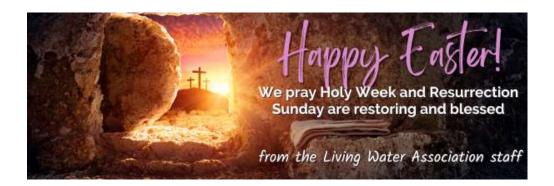
Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W.14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Monday – 9am – 1pm Wednesday – 10am-2 pm Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).



Sunday, April 9th – Easter Sunday –Festival Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – and our new resurrected life in the realm of God - 11:00am - Service of the Word –worship in-person and streamed via Zoom



Thank You to All who Shared Easter flowers with us today.

Easter Brunch follows worship today - thank you to all who brought dishes to share – All worship participants are welcome join us for brunch!

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Hopes of finding people alive have dimmed and experts fear the toll could rise sharply. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. The US State Department has confirmed that 3 Americans are among the dead. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- The people of California profoundly impacted by the atmospheric rivers, flooding rains and winter storms and snow. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Prayers for healing process for the surviving children, faculty, parents, and extended families
 of the Covenant School, a Christian school for pre-K through 6th grade students in Nashville,
 Tennessee. A mass shooting there left three students and three adults dead.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 139 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of April 5th, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States We know

- that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant and various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family
 - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) is at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH.
 - o Betty Funk (our Minister of Music) receiving care in a medical rehab unit.
 - Marian Heffernan (neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine health concerns)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - o Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch - has recovered and returning to everyday activities.
 - Marcia Leslie (friend health concerns)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Linda and James Mortach (Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law) & Linda's daughter
 - Patricia Matheny (prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin) Prayers for her family at the loss of her brother Keith Matheny who grew up in the Zion Church. Also the loss of a dear friend Craig Lucas.
 - Barbara Rossington (move to a new senior housing community)
 - Henry Senyak (resident community leader cancer)
 - Debbie Webb (Debbie has fallen a couple of times in one fall she suffered a broken femur – and in a second recent fall, she broke a bone in her arm.
 She is recovering)
 - Beverly Wurm and family



NAYIRI KARJIAN, GENERAL MINISTER, LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION, OHIO NORTHEAST, UCC • APRIL 1, 2021

"It is finished," Jesus said. His killers also thought, it was "finished." But it seems God was not "finished." The story made an astonishing turn – death turned to life, Good Friday to Easter, crucifixion to resurrection. The women who had gone to anoint the body in the tomb could not find it. Instead, they were confronted with a confounding possibility – resurrection!

Resurrection was not an unusual idea at the time. Pharisees believed in it. Sadducees did not. Most Jews believed there will be resurrection at the messianic age. Christianity later emphasized resurrection in the afterlife. Rising from the dead, sounded like an idle tale, a fabricated story. Even after 2000 years speculations about historical proof of Jesus' resurrection abound.

The resurrection of Jesus, like many others in the Scripture, is a faith story. The Bible is not a scientific or historical narrative but a spiritual one. Most biblical stories can be verified historically or scientifically only partially, for the truths they tell are faith truths, spiritual truths, truths that give our lives meaning and shed light on the realities of life with which we struggle. Hence, the biblical faith story can only be experienced and lived. Faith truths cannot be verified they can only be experienced.

Consider many of the gifts of the Spirit – Love, hope, joy, peace, etc. Love cannot be qualified, measured or proven scientifically. It cannot be verified in a laboratory, it can only be experienced and lived. We know love when we experience it.

Resurrection also cannot be verified, measured or proven but it can be experienced and lived. And once one lives through an experience, the need for verification no longer exists. What we experience is what we know. And, yes, there are different ways of knowing - with mind and head, with heart and spirit. And when they all connect, we experience peace.

My grandmother who lived through the Armenian Genocide, which should have rendered us "finished," would say, I know death in my body. I also know life in my body. It took me years to understand what she meant. She had died and come back to life. She identified with the crucifixion and death of Jesus, for she had experienced it herself. Then she identified with the resurrection because she was given another chance to begin and live again. This was her lived experience. She needed no verification or proof about Jesus' resurrection. She knew.

I have experienced many new beginnings in my life. Moments of Easter dawned when I thought it was all finished and done. This past year of COVID we, communally, lived through a year of Lent not only with COVID but also through its implications as well as truths that surfaced – a plethora of injustices, racial, economic and more; a lifestyle that has not been healthy for us; the environmental crisis on the earth, our home; the continued blending of the local and global; and more... Only gradually we are beginning to experience a sense of Easter and awakening, Resurrection and new beginning. And, that is powerful.

The power of the resurrection is not n its scientific or historical verification but in its singular power within and beyond us that can transform even our most excruciating moments into life-giving ones. The power of resurrection is in the extraordinary courage of the human spirit that can rise above the worst tragedies, and about the power of the Divine yearning to heal and to make whole. Resurrection is that moment when we discover and experience that the end was not really the end. There's more to come. It is not finished.

May you experience a joyous and meaningful Easter Resurrection.