

Practicing Resurrection

If someone asked you, **“What is the meaning of Easter?”**, how would you respond? Not what happened at Easter, but what does it truly mean for you? Here. Now. How does it impact the way you live your life?

A few years ago, I asked that question to a number of my friends and colleagues. As suspected, I got a wide variety of responses. One person said it means ham for dinner. Another joked, “Jesus is coming—hide the Easter eggs!” Several spoke of newness—new life and new beginnings, but didn’t get specific. The most common answer was something similar to this: Jesus died for our sins and overcame death and sin forever—for everyone, and that means we get to go to heaven someday.

While that may be true, I wonder if Easter means something more. Something bigger—not just somewhere down the road, but right now. Today.

This time each year we gather around the conviction that the world’s brokenness is not what is most real and true. We gather around the conviction that God has not given up on the world, and that this world matters. And perhaps that is even more true now, in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic that has drastically changed the way we live and move and even see the world. In the midst of confusion and uncertainty, we need the real meaning of Easter now more than ever!

As people of faith we boldly claim that there has been a resurrection and that a whole new creation is bursting forth right here, right now, right in the middle of this one! But seeing it and living into it takes practice.

In these days of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, it is vital that we practice resurrection. And I have been thrilled by all the ways this community of faith has banded together. It has been so inspiring to see how church members have stepped up to care for each other. We have received notes, emails, and calls of encouragement. Members have offered to make financial gifts over and above their regular giving. Our new mantra is “We are in this together.”

What are some ways that you can practice resurrection in your life today? How can you make the world a little brighter for someone still stuck on Good Friday?

Together we can weather this storm, share with our neighbors, find ways to care for the most vulnerable and faithfully trust in the power of love to lead us through.

He is risen. Hallelujah and Amen.



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