

Message from Rev. Barry:

Resurrection doesn't come easy for many of us. Living in this pandemic time opens us up to new realities and the resurrection experience is one of them. Resurrection changes lives.

It pointed the first Christians – and persons like us – to a new vision of nature and its possibilities, and of the Holy Ones work in the world. We live in a wondrous universe filled with wonders beyond our wildest imaginations.

I think Jesus' resurrection comes from this deep-down place in which divine and human energy intersect to create a synergetic burst of transformative energy. Resurrection is not restricted to Christians but embodies God's living, transforming, and energizing movements in all of life. Resurrection is God's pathway of rebirth and renewal, most dramatically reflected in Jesus' life, but residing in all things. Resurrection changed everything, yet everything remained the same. The first Christians experienced persecution and martyrdom, the church itself became a place of both healing and destruction, and our post-resurrection world is threatened by global climate change and the destructive actions of Christianity's most "ardent" followers who subvert the all-embracing love of Jesus with a religion of rugged individualism, self-interested capitalism, intolerance, and scorched earth politics. Yet, resurrection lives on—an empty tomb and open future beckons, despite the failures of Jesus' followers.

Still, we need to celebrate resurrection and, in the spirit of Wendell Berry's poem, "practice resurrection." But, how shall we practice resurrection today? Rather, it is in looking for the Empty Tombs in our world, and seeing within them open futures for ourselves and for others. It is in bringing forth beauty, especially in children and marginalized and vulnerable persons. It is in resisting the politics of division, coercion, and greed, and learning to live in terms of a beloved community in which all persons can rise to the heights of abundant living.

Today, we are called to be resurrection partners, to roll away the stone, imprisoning marginalized people, and open pathways to the future for all creation. We are called to be the Holy One's celebrative companions—to say "yes" to life in all its complexity, contrast, and beauty. To rejoice in birth and rebirth. So we can shout - Christ is Risen, today, and every day! Hallelujah!

Happy Easter to all of you!!!