

Resurrection Today

In the Christian worship calendar, the time between Easter and Pentecost is when we explore scriptures of Jesus showing up during walks, worship, work, meals...within the everyday aspect of his disciples' lives. Instead of physically journeying with a man they could hear, see, and touch, Jesus' followers were now confronted with a Christ who wanted to reside within their hearts, minds and will. They grieved, they doubted, were humbled, and in the end, received God's presence in new ways and places. During this process they, too, became "resurrected."

The below Thanksgiving Psalm is a favorite of mine. It is a reminder that within the struggles of living and dying, remembering that I am/we are completely and divinely loved is an important resurrection. Springtime gives visual proof of God's revitalizing and healing love. This is the season where we see how nature's strong and determined hope can blossom and bloom. Nature around and within us lives out this hope so effortlessly it can be easy to miss the miracle. As an ancient, unknown psalmist once wrote:

*My heart is amazed
for the word is given me.
My heart of stone hears.
I have come to know
that you did these things for yourself, O God.
You have done miracles for mere flesh.
It is your glory.
You have called into being
a host endowed with knowledge,
and instructed us who are born of women.
In our covenant with you
you open the heart of dust,
and in compassion
you save us from the traps of judgement.*

*As for me, a creature of clay
and water
with a heart of stone,
how am I worthy of all this?
You set your word
in this ear of dust
and write truths on my heart.
You end
my wandering
to bring me into concordance with you
that I may stand, unshaken,
before you
in the glow of perfect light
forever,
where no darkness is*

*forever,
where unsearchable peace is
forever.*

For me, a creature of dust.

(Psalm 25, The Thanksgiving Psalms, Dead Sea Scrolls, from The Other Bible, Willis Barnstone, ed. HarperCollins, San Francisco, 1984, pp 265-266.)

Like the early mystics and Christians, I struggle to fully welcome Christ into my heart, mind, and life. I, too, have a “heart of stone.” Sometimes personal struggles carry over into my church life, and I don’t always *want* resurrection. Sometimes resurrection is happening before my eyes yet I’m too busy to notice.

This week I invite you to join me in *wondering*:

Where do I need resurrecting?

What new growth is already happening within me? Within my congregation?

How can I support and further God’s new growth?

What am I asked to receive? To share?

Who am I asked to become?

May we each be touched and renewed by God’s loving grace this springtime! May our hope be full, determined, and joyful. May our *wondering* together help give flesh to God’s resurrection miracles occurring in *our* midst.

Yours,
Diana Hansen
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