

Devotion, First Week of Eastertide, 2023

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

The Easter lilies have bloomed, the Easter baskets of candy have been attacked with fervor and most chocolate bunnies are now missing their ears, and we have feasted on ham, potato salad, and other traditional goodies. The fancy clothes are in the laundry or closet and the relatives have returned home. The children are back in school, probably dreaming of Easter candy rather than attending to course work, and wondering if school will ever be out for the summer. It is daylight by seven now, and not fully dark until eight. Everything in the yard gets greener and brighter day by day, and the birds are voraciously hungry at the feeders.

Spring is a time when things change so quickly. Sometimes I'd like to tell the flowers in my yard to slow down so I can enjoy the blooms a little longer. Animals in the forest are having their young, and life seems full of new birth and promise. A fitting time to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, because that resurrection is new birth for us, and the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that we are forgiven and offered new life in Him. We have left worry and fear and impending doom at the thought of His death, we have abandoned empty, dark tombs, and we are now instructed by Him to walk in the light of His grace and care.

I hope during this Eastertide – the fifty days of time before Pentecost, when Jesus appeared to his followers and promised the coming of the Holy Spirit – you will join me as we sit in wonder at the incredible gift that this holy man, this Messiah, left us. May you think of Him as you experience the beauty of springtime.

Jeanne