

Devotion, Week of April 12, 2026 – Second Week of Eastertide

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

This past week we celebrated the life of an incredible man – John Randolph. He was 90 years young, and he and Pat had been married 68 years. A wonderful life, as those of you heard who were there or have listened to the service on Facebook. All of us who spoke about John repeated the same thing – he was a quiet man. I’ve been thinking about that. He certainly was an active man, involved in his work, in his church, in his gardening and farming, in his hobbies, and with his family. But he did all of that without making a big fuss about things or insisting on a lot of attention or credit for his efforts.

I spoke in the sermon Sunday about Jesus abiding in the disciples and also in us. That word abide also means dwelling with, or being present with someone. I think that’s the way John lived. He was truly present with his family and friends. He “abided” with God, and knew that God abided in him. He could appreciate the world around him, even the little things like tomato plants and catching a fish, because he loved this world that God made, with all its blessings, great and small. He didn’t sweat the small stuff, and he didn’t live his life expecting gloom and doom, or wishing for big fireworks. He took each day as it came, and generally found something to be thankful about. I think he was an example of how God hopes we all will live. We will be grateful for the good things and face with courage the bad things. May we remember this man and strive to mimic his love for God and family, his courage, and his grace.

Jeanne