



let it shine

Easter: Resurrection Passion and Power

The hymns of this holy day in the Christian year are full of power as they celebrate Christ's resurrection. They speak of Christ bursting out of the prison of death, of triumph over the grave, of joy unleashed and hope undaunted. Trumpets and voices soar as we sing together of God's victory over the forces of evil and death in Christ's rising.

The hushed tones of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday have given way to spontaneous and overwhelming exclamation and acclamation. Somber colors are supplanted by lilies and tulips, hyacinth and daffodil. Shadows give way to the Light. And Easter is with us in all its glory!

For us in the United Church of Christ, the resurrection is the faith foundation of our proclamation that God Is Still Speaking. We believe that in the power of that resurrection moment, God made it clear that revelation was not finished, that God has yet more light and truth to shed on God's own holy word. Indeed, should we try to imprison God's light and truth, it will burst those walls as surely as Christ did the tomb two millennia ago.

This commitment to the resurrection faith prompted our leaders at the time of the creation of the United Church of Christ 50 years ago to state in the preamble to our constitution: The UCC "affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own..." because God Is Still Speaking!

Easter is not simply about an amazing miracle that occurred 2,000 years ago, nor just about its impact on our personal lives and faith, nor only about the gift of eternal life. It is also about our witness in the world, about a fire in our belly to share this amazing good news

Our Theological Roots

with others, about a determination that the forces of death and evil will not prevail as long as we live as the Body of Christ, full of resurrection passion and power!

Our Easter God is Still Speaking both words of comfort and words of challenge. In faith, we strain to listen and to hear, and then to live and act. What a gift God gives on this day! In joy and prayerful gratitude, we leave this time of worship renewed, refreshed and recommitted to the gospel faith. Let it shine!

Reflection:

- How has Easter and Christ's resurrection animated your faith?
- What is it about the Easter story that most captivates you?
- When are the moments when you hear God still speaking in the midst of human life?
- How could you let the resurrection faith shine more clearly through your life and witness?

Resources:

- Matthew 28:1-10
- Mark 16:1-8
- Luke 24:1-53
- John 20:1-23
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

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