



Christ is Risen!

Easter 2021

Dear Ones,

Greetings and peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ! I write to you once more from my study at home, hoping that by next Easter I will be back in my office at St. Luke's. As we approach Holy Week and the celebration of Christ's

resurrection amidst the ongoing pandemic, it is natural to feel very mixed emotions. I can only speak for myself, but I imagine that we are all feeling to some degree the deep grief of loss this year, as well as hope in the warm spring weather and the rapid distribution of the vaccine that promises to open the way before us to some kind of communal life once again.

As I think of these things alongside the resurrection of Jesus, I am reminded by the accounts of the risen Christ in the Gospels. It is clear from the texts that Jesus was not the same, and neither were the people who loved and knew him best. His passage through death and resurrection to life were transformative in powerful ways, and not for himself alone. The disciples that had so often stumbled along, seeking to understand him and the way of love he was guiding them toward, were given a new hope and a purer vision. Even after Jesus' ascension into the heavens, this hope continued to transform them into more authentic followers of Jesus and preachers of the Gospel.

As we return to St. Luke's over the coming weeks, we too will be transformed. Our community will look and feel different, even as we embrace loved ones whose faces are familiar. Emerging as we are into the midst of Eastertide, my prayer is that of St. Paul, who wrote to the church at Thessalonica that we "may not grieve as others do who have no hope." The resurrection of Christ is still a transformative event that has the power to shape us into more authentic followers and preachers of the Gospel. This hope, that the same love which brought Christ from the dead, will also transform all of the pain and loss of this life, is ours to cling to, and ours to proclaim. I invite you to join me this Easter in this proclamation of hope.

May the Blessed Hope of Resurrection be deeply yours,

Elizabeth+

Please see other side for Holy Week Events