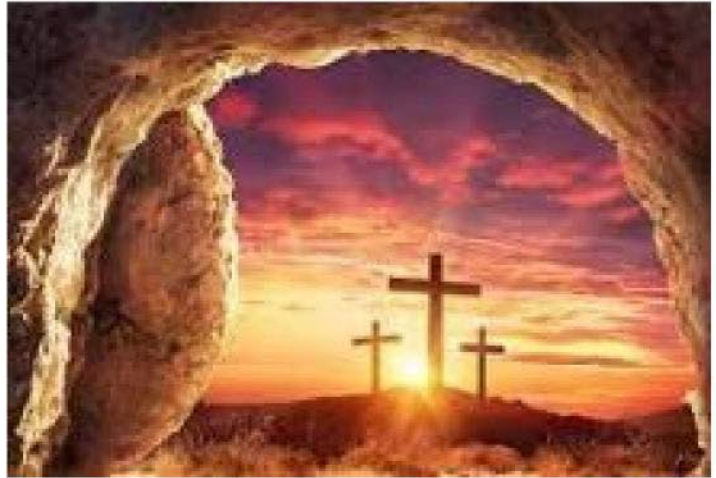


Celebrating Easter 2024

Flowers, sunrise, chocolate, painted eggs, bunnies, yellow chicks, lambs, sunrise celebrations, family gatherings, easter egg hunt, easter bonnets ... are many of the symbols that we see in the Easter Season. While they are more in the realm of a secular celebration they have a deeper meaning and represent new life, light and beauty, joy, hope, lightheartedness, newness, community – the emotion of Easter! For us Easter is all of this but most of all it is the celebration of God's promise of redemption in Jesus.



Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

As we ponder our world realities in this year 2024 we see much darkness and sorrow, loss, death and destruction. We see the devastation of our beautiful planet, of the geosphere, of the architectural beauty and fineness of buildings and properties that have stood for centuries, of the torture and assault on innocent human life, of natural disasters, of the inhumanity of a few that afflicts the many . . . and we are challenged to find life and hope!

Isaiah 40:30-31

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Psalms 130:5-8

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and I hope for his word. My soul looks for the Lord more than sentinels for daybreak. More than sentinels for daybreak, let Israel hope in the Lord, For with the Lord is mercy, with him is plenteous redemption, And he will redeem Israel from all its sins.

Life and hope are found in the promise of the Resurrection. Jesus took on human nature and walked among us. In his life, his cruel death and in his resurrection and defeat of death he gave faith, joy and hope. His resurrection greeting was “Peace be with you!”

“The Gospel authors show that Jesus’ gifts at the Resurrection—gifts of forgiveness, the remediation of sins, and the promise of new life—don’t stop with Jesus giving these gifts to the people with whom he reconnects. Jesus tells Mary Magdalene not to hold onto him, but to go out and spread the good news to others, which she gladly does. Jesus forgives the disciples in the upper room, reconciles with them, and encourages them to be forgiving too, and they become forgiving presences in the world. Thomas believes and then becomes a model of faith for others. Peter and Jesus reconnect on the beach, and Peter finds himself empowered to go on to lead the Church, to heal and to minister to others, and even eventually to be willing to die for his faith. Jesus’ Resurrection is not just a moment, then, but keeps on giving.” Excerpt: Marina Berzins McCoy, Boston College

We are resurrection people on a journey through life. As members of Christ’s body we walk as people of joy and hope. We are the people of God walking among and with all of creation shouting songs of praise and glory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgMBedGh99Q&t=48s> to a God who loves us so much, and who loves the world so much. This is God’s creation and we walk humbly and gratefully on the road that lies before us! We embrace in our hearts all those who continue to suffer, are persecuted and displaced as they live in hope for the peace and joy that God promises.

