

## ***Christ Is Risen, Alleluia***

On this Easter Sunday, we have more reason to shout out to the world that Christ is Risen and that new life is sprouting everywhere! This has been an incredible Lent. Who would have thought we would not be getting together in church for Easter and would be livestreaming Easter Mass this year! If you had told me this 6 weeks ago, I wouldn't have believed you. COVID 19 has changed all of our lives. For some, it has brought mild symptoms, for others, hospitalization, and for others, the dying of those we have loved. If we were only to see the pain of these last weeks, we would be overwhelmed like the early disciples burying the body of Jesus. They must have felt the grief of losing one they loved, but also losing the power of his dreams of a world where the poor would be lifted up, the sick would be healed, the nobodies would be held in high esteem and those enslaved and imprisoned would be set free. As they looked at that tomb, they must have felt completely hopeless and wondered why God would allow such a thing to happen.

In the midst of their grief, the stone was rolled away and Christ whom they loved was no longer there. At first, they thought someone had stolen the body, but then Jesus began to appear in the upper room, on the road to Emmaus, in the garden to Mary Magdalen, etc. Christ was showing up everywhere to tell the rest of the story. There is life after death and no matter how bleak it may seem, the story isn't over until resurrection and new life comes! There is new life for all of us even in a pandemic. This is not to dismiss or underplay the pain of these days or the grief people are suffering with the illness and trying to care for those they love who are struggling for their lives. That is real and painful and very sad, BUT as followers of Jesus we continue to look for signs of life and hope and resurrection, It may be us who are called to be that sign this year. It may be us who are called to care for people who are suffering now. It may be us who do the shopping for someone who is vulnerable. It may be us who calls someone who is lonely. It may be us who questions why there is such disparity in health care for people of color. On this Easter, we are called to be much more than we were last year. In the midst of this painful moment in our history, we are called to be light, truth, compassion and hope for our world. Let's go out there and spread the good news that Christ is risen and we are here to find new life for everyone!