



Reflections from Pr. Bruce Kolasch

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died."
 1 Corinthians 15:20 (NRSV)

A number of years ago, I was taking a small group of teenagers on a day hike up a small mountain in eastern Idaho. It was early spring time, still cold, but sunny and warm enough for a day hike. "Are we there yet?" soon was a repeated question. "You will know when we get there." became the stock response.

We made it to the top, broke out our lunches and were enjoying the view and great conversation. Suddenly, one of the youth noticed a beautiful, delicate flower that had pushed through a crust of rock and hard soil. We gathered around it and admired its graceful beauty. It was surrounded by rock and barren soil.

It became an "ah-ha" moment! How could such a fragile flower break through such a hard covering. It was close to Easter. This discovery led to a great conversation about Jesus and the Easter story.

May the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection renew your hope again this year. Life is more powerful than death. Light is stronger than darkness. Love is greater than hate and fear. His resurrection is reason and hope for ours yet to come!

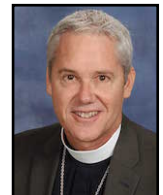
*He is not here,
 he has*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Risen!

Thoughts from Rev. Jim Gonia (Bishop, Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA)

*Turn, O Lord! How long?
 Have compassion on your servants!
 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
 so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
 (Psalm 90)*



"These words from Psalm 90 seem fitting as we live into a time of utter disorientation, personally and societally. The world we knew last week is not the world to which we awoke this morning, and next week's world may feel light years from today's. Feeling disoriented, asking 'how long?' and pleading for compassion are all appropriate responses! Yet as the Psalm goes on to remind us, our lament is not the whole story. Amid any and all disorientation, the one consistent factor is God's steadfast love. That is solid and unchanging. Which means there is still reason to rejoice and be glad."

Hang in there. We will get through this. Physical isolation from each other in an attempt to minimize the spreading of COVID-19 is distasteful and frustrating. But it is temporary. The latest date currently given us for our return to public worship is May 10, Mother's Day. We will keep you informed.

Through this time, we continue to care and pray for each other, make phone calls, send notes and do the little things we can for each other. You can find worship and devotional material at www.elimlutheran.org. We also ask that you please continue your financial support. You may do so by mailing your check to our church office or by making an online donation with your credit card from the Elim webpage (www.elimlutheran.org.)

Thank you and God's peace to you in Christ,
 Pastor Bruce Kolasch

"Fill in the blank: Pandemic + Earthquake + _____"

I would put "the mystery of the Risen Christ" in the blank. It is in these moments especially that I look to the Risen Christ and trust in Him completely. When a crisis hits, Christian people often ask (eventually), "Where is God?" Well, God is still here. God has not abandoned us and is very much with us in and through all our trials. Thanks be to God for this.

Moments like these seem to bring new life into my Christian History class as well as I prepare homilies both for Zion and Elim. I still see the love of God in and throughout my day. Just recently, I had a Zoom call with some of my Internship Committee (Coach Bjorklund, Deanna Lee, Lois/Wayne Graham), and they brought into focus how God's love is being breathed into our days as we "stay-in-place" or limit our daily outings. Here are a few things they shared: "Our children are responding to our texts more frequently." "We are getting to know our neighbors better." "When we do go out, we notice the friendliness of the clerks and the cleanliness of the stores."

I pray that each of you finds glimpses of God's eternal love shining through. How have you seen this in your own life? Share these glimpses with someone in an email or phone call and watch how the Kingdom of God begins to break through.

We hope you also enjoy the "new-temporary" online Worship through our website at www.elimlutheran.org. We will be making weekly posts. Sending you a virtual hug,
Vicar/Intern Lisa Mensinger

Archeological Odds and Ends from Karlene Widner

Yona Sahar is a major figure in the effort to preserve as much of the original Aramaic language as possible. When asked if he could "converse with Jesus," he stated that he could probably understand Jesus better than vice versa.

Excavation of the 5th century C.E. synagogue at Huqoq in Israel's lower Eastern Galilee has revealed stunning Biblical and Graeco-Roman mosaics. One mosaic features Samson in a scene from Judges 15, where Samson ties the tails of 150 pairs of foxes together. Another shows Samson, gigantic in stature, carrying the city gate of Gaza on his shoulders (Judges 16:3).

Ada Yardeni (1937~2018) was a world-renowned scholar in the field of Hebrew and Aramaic Paleography, specializing in paleographic research, including deciphering, drawing and publishing ancient Semitic manuscripts. She knew shapes and other features of the letters in ancient writings. Very famous in her field, she was often called on for her expertise.



