

“Ev’ry Morning Is Easter Morning”

(title of song by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh)

Easter Sunrise Service

April 11, 2004

Denbigh Presbyterian Church

Rev. Deborah Dail

Some Easter mornings are glorious—the weather is beautiful, the birds are singing, the sunrise exquisite. Some Easter mornings are not so glorious—the weather is dismal, the ground is soggy, the sunrise a disappointment because of the rain or fog. Some Easter mornings we get to worship outside. Some Easter mornings we worship inside. Some mornings, like this morning, we’re not quite sure what to do!

In some places, this Easter Sunday is marked with peace, gentleness, the privilege of coming to church without fear, children awakening to full Easter baskets and at least the offer of a nourishing breakfast. But in some places this Easter Sunday is marked by war, violence, the persecution of people of faith, children awakening to empty bowls and bread baskets.

Some of us come to this Easter sunrise service with great hope in our lives; we are in good health; our family relationships are healthy and intact; our faith is strong; we feel at peace. But some of us come to this Easter sunrise service with despair or discouragement; we have health concerns or someone we love has health concerns; some are facing family turmoil; some have mounting doubts about the Christian faith—some have even given up on God. Peace, you say? You must be kidding.

Yet, regardless of the weather or the world situation or our own personal life situations, it is Easter. Nothing can keep Easter away.

Nothing could keep Easter away at that very first “Easter sunrise” service some 2000 years ago. Mary Magdalene thought she was going to a graveside “service” that Sunday morning. On Friday, the skies had turned dark, the earth had quaked and her world was turned upside down by the brutal death of Jesus. All the circumstances of the world as she knew it and all the realities of her life were marked by death. Caught up in her circumstances, caught up in the dismal state of the world, Mary Magdalene was blind to the resurrected Jesus standing right in front of her. She couldn’t recognize Jesus standing right in front of her. Easter had come. She was about to miss it. She was about to miss Jesus.

And how often is that us? Easter is standing right in front of us. Jesus is standing right in front of us—offering hope, forgiveness, life abundant and life eternal and love—and we cannot see Him because we are blinded by our circumstances.

The Apostle Paul tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. No circumstance can possibly separate us from God’s love in Christ—not weather, not war, not personal pain, not even doubt or sin. Nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Easter comes—rain or shine. The risen Christ comes to us calling us by name—rain or shine. And not just on Easter morning. There’s a children’s song that says: “Ev’ry Morning is Easter morning from now on!” Ev’ry morning will not always be beautiful. Every morning will not always be peaceful. Every morning will not always be happy. But every morning is Easter morning from now on! Easter will come every day. Jesus will call us by name every day. Every day, the truth that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus, will remain true. Every day we can be inspired by the truth that because He lives we will also live and because He lives we can face every tomorrow. Regardless of our circumstances, “every morning is Easter morning from now on!”