

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Have you ever noticed the drama associated with worship? On Easter morning many congregations assemble for worship before dawn to join the women going to the tomb. On Christmas Eve we stay up late to welcome the Christ Child as did the shepherds. On the first Sunday of April we will again remember the resurrection story. Our weekly routines are disrupted during holy week as we gather for worship to remember the drama of the Last Supper. During Lent we gathered on Wednesdays to remember the parts of worship associated with our faith. During Sunday worship we hear for the first time or again the stories of faith in Holy Scriptures. Our choir offers prayers, praises and stories of the God we worship. Baptisms and funerals are drama stories that tell of our faith.

Again on Maundy Thursday we will gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist both as a remembering of the Passover meal and the story of the exodus of God's people as they prepared to leave Egypt. But the meal is more than remembering. As our first communion students learn, the Holy Supper is one of the sacraments of the church, Eucharist means thanksgiving, and the gathering is also a meal and foretaste of the feast to come. Many congregations even prepare a Seder meal to reflect the Passover meal celebrated by Jesus and his disciples.

As with any drama, there is much behind the scenes planning and preparations. The worship and music committee carefully makes sure that the hymns sung each Sunday are known and appropriate for the texts. (Notice that we don't sing Christmas carols during Lent!) The committee also arranges for appropriate decorations, for the communion table to be set up before worship. We celebrate our fellowship with simple but delicious soup lunches almost monthly. Our youth often prepare dramas for worship. My thanks to all who help with the behind the scenes preparations as well as participation in the worship drama as our ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, lay readers and congregation.

The most important dramas we celebrate are the sacraments of Holy Communion and the Holy Eucharist. As children of God we continue to remember who we are: holy children of God. We remember these special dramas weekly throughout our worship services. So the dramas continue as we gather to worship and sing praises and depart after worship to continue to serve the Lord. Throughout the season of Lent we prepared for the Passion and Resurrection of our God. Now we are ready to celebrate the first day of the week when we are assured that God has conquered death and Jesus died to forgive us our sins. We look forward to your continued presence at worship as we remember the life, death and resurrection of our God.

May God who has brought us from death to life fill each of you with great joy.

Shalom,
Pastor Bev+

