



BROADVIEW COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

STEEPLE NEWS

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Edited by Mary Mackenzie

AN EASTER WAY OF LIFE

by Rev. Dan Stern

The one central thing that all gospel accounts agree on is that Jesus rose up from death. Not death denying. But death defying. And whole lives are transformed. Whole cultures come into being. Cathedrals. Great art. Institutions of higher learning. It all began with that empty tomb. But what a strangely productive, mysteriously hopeful emptiness this has shown itself to be!

Resurrection is about a whole world completely rearranged. It's about new heavens and a new earth, as the Isaiah passage puts it. It's about social justice. It's about the wolf and the lamb eating together, each and everyone having what we need, and none hurting or destroying the other. Easter is linked historically with Passover, that even older faith story of liberation from slavery. Both Easter and Passover are meant to be 'subversive memories' – they serve to be solid ground hope in the face of despair and oppression.

You might want to call the risen Christ a community organizer. It was said that, the American labor leader Joe Hill repeatedly appeared among his friends after his murder by copper mining bosses. The folk song about him puts it this way, "And standing there, as big as life, and smiling with his eyes, Joe says, "What they could never kill went on to organize. Joe Hill ain't dead," he says to me, "Joe Hill ain't never died. When workers strike and organize Joe Hill is by their side, Joe Hill is by their side."

Jesus died a wrongful death too – crucified at the hands of Roman imperialists and their fear-filled lackeys. To restore a crucified man to life strikes a decisive blow against the system that caused his wrongful death in the first place. Not merely a feel-good memory from the past, the Christ who is alive to us now is a genuinely strengthening force for the future.

Encounters with the risen Christ turn whole lives around. Cowardly quarreling disciples, so often uncomprehending and powerless became, through the resurrection, empowered to act, united and brave. So in a very real sense, resurrection happens not just to Jesus, but to all who are impacted by it. Those first disciples were lifted from the narrow tomb of their former existence and thrust into the sunlight of a spacious new life where they were freed to live gratefully. So are we.

The resurrection of Christ is, therefore, no isolated event, no freakish wonder fit for supermarket tabloids. Genuine Easter resurrection faith is about something different than walking around in one's particular skin for eternity. The resuscitation of any particular individual physical body is not really the point. Joining Christ in a resurrection like Christ's is not about denying death. We are not here to pretend we're immortal. The risen Christ feeds a much deeper kind of hunger.

It declares that our separation from God, our alienation from each other, our cowering subservience to decay and suffering, are overcome by a power that knows no equal. This Jesus builds a bridge between our frail humanity and the omnipotence, the utter holiness of God.

Let us not come looking for a good dead man, but rather, for a living presence. Let us also know the joy that is at the heart of God. Joy, after all, is God's final word. We may wonder how God can be ultimately all about joy...all the awful things that happen, the violence, the injustice, the threat of catastrophic war, the stomping upon of creaturely dignity...then our prayers are a loud cry, and rightly so. God hears, God knows, God grieves. The wounds are there, the imprint of pain in the heart of love. But at the deepest level of God's being burns/sheer/joy. Would you want it any other way? Would you rather have a god so enmeshed in the web of sorrow that we could never know whether at the end of the day, joy or sorrow, light or darkness, bright white lilies or plastic garbage, would triumph? Easter is not a pretty memory. Easter is a whole way of life. We are present today with a God who is alive and among us and will respond to the least flicker of our faith and love. Christ is here. God is glad. Are we? Welcome the One who can lift us out of fear and pain and oppression into the lasting goodness and gladness and total restoration that come from God.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page #
An Easter Way of Life	1
Taking Stock of Life: An Easter Meditation	2
Broadview Church Calendar	2
Obituary for Ruth Allyn	2-3
Reading April/May	3
Birthday List April/May	3
Jokes	4

TAKING STOCK OF LIFE: AN EASTER MEDITATION

by Mary Mackenzie

With spring here, and Easter fast approaching, it is time for new beginnings; a time to do spring cleaning. We do this both in a physical way, getting rid of unnecessary clutter, and in a spiritual way. Lent is meant to do just this on a spiritual way. It is a time to step back from the crazy-busy life we all live, and simplify it in preparation for the Easter Mysteries. This is a good time to look at our prayer life, and take stock on our relationship with God. Especially during times of economic crisis, simplifying life, and spending more quality time with God, family and friends can bring us out of our own worries, and connect us to what is most important, which in my opinion are our relationships; relationships with friends, family, and God.

I invite everyone to look for ways to simplify your life, to take some extra time in prayer, and to take time with friends and family. Go for a hike, walk around a local park, read a good spiritual book, or have a meal with friends and/or family. Also, I would challenge all of us, to not buy into the mass hysteria the media is trying to spin – turn off the TV News, don't read the depressing, hopeless newspapers/blogs. Times are not easy, but could be much worse.

Easter is a time of new life, a time in which we are to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, a time for hope, hope that things will get better and belief in the One who knows every one of us by name. We proclaim that Jesus is risen, that he is with us always. God's radical love was shown most when Jesus became the Word Incarnate and when he died showing us a radical way of living, of loving. Rejoice, for Jesus has Risen, He has risen indeed!

BROADVIEW CHURCH CALENDAR

Holy Week

April 5: 10am Palm Sunday, Joan Henjum preaching and leading Worship

April 6: 7pm Broadview Choir Practice

April 7: 7pm Extra Choir Practice

April 8: 6:30pm Choir Practice,

7:30 Maundy Thursday Service

April 12: 10am Easter Sunday

Upcoming Events

April

April 17: 7pm Friday Nights at the Broadview, Movie Night: Pete Seeger: The Power of Song

April 24-26: PNC-UCC Annual Meeting in Spokane

April 26: 10am Jeff Stilwell Preaching and leading Worship, 6pm Spaghetti Dinner to benefit church

May

May 9: 7pm Susan Strick Benefit Concert

May 10: 11:30am Church Council Meeting

May 31: 10am Invite Friends and Neighbors Sunday

June

June 13-14: Plant Sale

June 14: 11:30am Broadview Church's Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation

June 19: 7pm Friday Nights at the Broadview, Movie Night: Rolling Stones: Shine a Light

OBITUARY FOR RUTH ALLYN

Ruth Mary Putnam Perry ALLYN was born in Claremont, New Hampshire to John G. and Abbie Mae Putnam. She was raised in Everett, WA and graduated from Everett High School. Ruth became a *Communications Specialist and Chief Petty Officer* in Washington D.C. in the U.S. Navy following high school. Ruth earned her teaching degree at Seattle Pacific University and the University of Washington. She taught primary grades in the Seattle Public School District for twenty years at John B. Allen and Haller Lake Elementary Schools, and was instrumental in the implementation of a district-wide reading readiness program in the late 1960's. Ruth was an avid Husky Fan during these years and was active in the University Congregational United Church of Christ. Her late husband, Marvin S. Allyn, was a Commodore of the Seattle Yacht Club, Northwest business leader, and served as an U.S. Department of Commerce Trade Advisor during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations.

Ruth enjoyed 28 active, happy years in Santa Barbara, California. She was involved in numerous Santa Barbara clubs and organizations and enjoyed world travel. Ruth was an avid tennis player competing in hard court and grass court tournaments, and an avid bridge player competing in annual bridge tournaments. She was a volunteer and auxiliary officer at the local Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital; and an officer in Hadas Madrinias, an Easter Seal charity auxiliary. Never at a loss for conversation and creative ideas, Ruth was the ultimate hostess. Santa Barbara friends were often guests at her famous Homemade Pie and Ice Cream Socials, annual 4th of July garden parties, and annual Holiday galas. The *Santa Barbara News-Press* once honored Ruth as *Cook of the Region* for her creative pie baking abilities. She also co-hosted local Hadas Madrinias children's charity events with Santa Barbara residents: Jane Russell, Jane Seymour, Fess Parker, Jonathan Winters and others. Ruth loved gardening and received awards for her tea roses and orchids. During her California years, Ruth's daily fitness routine included aerobics, a hilltop morning walk, sixty laps in an Olympic-size pool, and three sets of tennis all before Noon. Ruth lived the phrase "Just Do It" long before Nike. To celebrate her 75th birthday, Ruth hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, spent the night and hiked up the following day. In recent years, Ruth was a member of Broadview Community United Church of Christ in Seattle, continued to play bridge, and enjoyed genealogy. Ruth had a close companion, Joseph Dadosio, who passed away in 2006.

Ruth is survived by her son, David Jonathan Perry Allyn of Edmonds; daughter-in-law, Sheri; and four grandchildren:

Continued on pg. 3

Continued from pg. 2

Erica of Ashland, OR; Gregory and Jonathan of Edmonds; and Jay of Philadelphia, PA. Ruth is also survived by two sisters: Hazel Reynolds of Everett and Kathryn "Kay" Escamilla of Clarkston, WA; many nephews and nieces; and local cousins.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin S. Allyn; her beloved sister, Stella Frost Porubov of Seattle; five brothers: John G. Putnam, Jr. of Baring, WA; Stephen Putnam of Mukilteo; Stuart Putnam of Philadelphia, PA; Bernard Putnam of Seattle; half-brother George Putnam of Woodbridge, CT; and granddaughter, Hope Marie Allyn.

Friends may remember the Broadview Community United Church of Christ in Seattle.

READINGS APRIL/MAY 2009

April

April 5, 2009

Palm/Passion Sunday
Into Jerusalem
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16, 19-29
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

April 9, 2009

Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

April 10, 2009

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

April 12, 2009

Easter Sunday
Now What?
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 19, 2009

2nd Sunday of Easter
Marks of Faith
Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 26, 2009

3rd Sunday of Easter
Christ Among Us
Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

May

May 3, 2009

4th Sunday of Easter
Enfolded by Love

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

May 10, 2009

5th Sunday of Easter
Abiding in Love
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 17, 2009

6th Sunday of Easter
Friends Together
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 24, 2009

7th Sunday of Easter
Guided in Prayer
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 31, 2009

Pentecost Sunday
Spirit for All
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

BIRTHDAY LIST APRIL/MAY

April

Jackson Witmer	4/3
Marc Hofmann	4/4
Karen Aubin	4/8
Eli Bloch-Garcia	4/23
Deb Schumacher	4/23
Andy Studyvin	4/25
Gisele Weiderheim	4/30

May

Jane Witmer	5/2
Terri Toennessen	5/2
Donna Zion	5/2
Amy English	5/4
Melody Gowen	5/10
Eric Ford	5/13
Ruth Allyn	5/18
Bonnie Thompson	5/20
Rose Bailey	5/26
Patty Haskell	5/31
Carrie Hylander	5/31
Jerry Watson	5/31

broadview community
United Church of Christ

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TOP TEN REASONS TO CELEBRATE EASTER

10. You absolutely love the movie, "The Ten Commandments".
9. You look really, really good in yellow.
8. You just went on a low cholesterol diet and didn't want to waste all those eggs in the fridge.
7. You figure any Holiday that starts with a "Good Friday" can't be all bad.
6. You love to bite the heads off chocolate bunnies.
5. It's a good time to check out your neighborhood church and not be noticed.
4. You have this bunny suit you love to wear, but are too insecure to wear it without a reason.
3. Even though you don't know what it is, you really like the sound of going to a "Passion Play."
2. You figured since Jesus went to all THAT trouble to make it to the first Easter, you'd give it a shot.
1. As a Christian you celebrate the resurrection every other day, why not Easter too?

MORE EASTER JOKES

Q. What do Easter Bunny helpers get for making a basket?

A. Two points, just like anyone else.

Q. What's invisible and smells like carrots?

A. The Ether Bunny

Q. Why did the Easter Bunny hide his eggs?

A. He doesn't want the other bunnies to know tht he was fooling around with the chickens.

Do-It-Yourself Easter Kit: 2 boards, 3 nails, and a martyr!