



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“Easter is about God’s “Yes” to what we see in Jesus. Easter is not about believing in a spectacular long ago event, but about participating in what we see in Jesus. Crucifixion and the tomb didn’t stop him. Easter is about saying “Yes” to the passion of Jesus.

He’s still here, still recruiting.”

-Marcus Borg

It’s that time again. It is the Easter season and with it discussion about the Resurrection of Jesus. Impossible to believe in the twenty-first century, the holiday has been reduced to a secular rite of the coming of spring.

I was talking the other day about what Easter was like when I was a child. I had no thought to its theological significance. For me it meant getting a new dress, patent leather shoes, a new coat and Easter hat, and of course Easter egg hunts and an Easter basket! For children today it is much the same. Jesus raised from the dead meant little or nothing to me even though going to church was as much a part of the day as the Easter bunny. To miss church was unheard of to the extreme of my father pulling my sister and me on a sled and walking to church in a blizzard on an April morning in the sixties. Lots of things have changed since then. The question however is still relevant. As people of faith what are we to make then of the resurrection today?

There are many Christians who hold fast to a literal understanding and firmly believe in the bodily resurrection. It’s a part of our creeds and confessions. While others take a metaphorical approach insisting that Jesus was not literally raised from the dead but his vision and dream for the world was raised once again by his followers and those touched and transformed by his presence and teachings.

Progressive Bible scholar John Dominic Crossan offers us another option. He believes it doesn’t matter really whether we take a literal or metaphorical stance. What matters is what he calls “operational belief,” the idea that whether you believe the Bible stories (including the Resurrection) are literal or figurative, those beliefs ought to make a living difference in your life. Though taking a metaphorical approach to the resurrection, Crossan would say, whether one believes in a literal or metaphorical resurrection, the implications of the resurrection should make a difference in the world today. “We are talking about cosmic transformation from a world of injustice, impurity and violence into a world of justice and peace and purity and holiness,” he said once at a conference on the subject. In other words, it doesn’t matter what you believe about the resurrection if it does not transform your life and the world in which we live.

I too hold this view. What good is it whether the resurrection happened literally or metaphorically if it does not transform our lives and the lives of others? Which begs the question: how then will the resurrection transform our lives? Will we keep the secular version or allow its implications, whether literally or metaphorically, to change how we live our life?

Jesus proclaimed that the Reign of God was here and now, in this world. It is a reign of peace and justice for the poor and marginal, marked by individuals whose lives are oriented toward worshipping God with their whole hearts, mind and being.

“I think for me it’s extraordinarily important that the historical Jesus, the Jesus of the Gospels, has already made an announcement,” Crossan argues. “It is not that the Kingdom is beginning. It is that the Kingdom has begun. When Jesus sends people out, I think these people ... experienced part of the Kingdom.”

I would go further and suggest that people also experienced the living presence of Jesus in a way that inspired and empowered them to go out in the world to continue to make the reign of God a reality in this world.

This Easter, whatever your interpretation of the resurrection, may it transform your life and the life of the world.

Blessings,
Angela



We will collect money throughout Lent and dedicate our offering on Palm Sunday, March 21. In recent years our goal has been about \$4,000 and we usually make it. There are special OGHS envelopes in the pews which you can use for cash and checks, but you do not have to use these envelopes. Checks should be made out to the Palisades Presbyterian Church with OGHS written in the memo portion. All gifts are tax deductible and 100% of your donation goes to the OGHS programs. I hope you will prayerfully and enthusiastically consider a generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing this Lenten season.

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

March 6 Communion

March 13 Henry Shaw guest preacher

March 15 Session 7:30

Holy Week:

March 24 Maundy Thursday Service with St. Charles
A.M.E. Zion Church
6:30 pm Potluck at St. Charles
8:00 pm Worship St. Charles
Angela Maddalone, Preaching

March 25 8:00 pm Good Friday
Piermont Reformed Church
Ecumenical Worship
Last Seven Words of Christ

March 27 Easter Sunday
6:30 am Sunrise Service: Cass and Nick
Ludington's Home
10:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt Church Yard

Study Leave

Angela will be away on Study Leave March 8 to 14. She will be attending a Lenten Retreat at Linwood Spiritual Center in Rhinebeck, NY.

Save the Dates

Saturday, April 9, 5:30 pm Spaghetti Dinner presented by the children of the Palisades Presbyterian Church

April 17, 8:00 am
United Hospice of Rockland: Walk to Remember (5K walk around Rockland Lake)
Sign-up sheet in the church. Join the Palisades Presbyterian Church team.

DEACONS' CORNER

Deacons continue to be busy with regularly assigned duties preparing/serving communion and doing coffee hour. Please contact the Deacons if you can help with coffee hour. Contact Margaret Allen for arranging food for shut-ins, Jim Rubenstone for rides to worship and Stephen Van Dyk for those requiring our prayers.

Looking forward to spring and to Easter, the Deacons will coordinate the acquisition and distribution of lilies. These lilies, donated in memory of loved ones, will adorn the Sanctuary at the Easter Sunday 10:00 am service on March 27. What a beautiful way to celebrate Easter! The Deacons will deliver lilies to shut-ins and other members of the congregation after the Easter service.



Spaghetti Dinner

Brought to you by the children of the Palisades Presbyterian Church

Date: Saturday, April 9

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

\$8.00 Adults

\$5.00 Children 12 & under

\$20 Family Maximum

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Salad & Bread

Dessert



Parking Reminder

During the snow season, everyone must park on the south side of the street (the church side) so that traffic can pass when the snow piles up.



Weather Alert

In the event of an extreme weather event, please call the church and listen to the message or check the church website to find out if worship is canceled. Notice will be given by 8:00 am on the day of the service.
www.palpresny.org

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The church Facebook page is a virtual faith community where you will find posted events, shared pictures, and provocative topics for discussion. Visit us, “friend” us and join the discussion. <http://www.facebook.com/ThePalisadesPresbyterianChurch>