



Pastor's Corner

Dear friends,

Three weeks ago we celebrated Easter. Resurrection day. It was joyful, and festive, and lighthearted. It was a blessed release after the somber days preceding it. We proclaimed that Christ was risen, He was risen indeed! But now we've returned to our everyday lives. They aren't always very joyful; they aren't always very festive or lighthearted. They're filled, at times, with worries, challenges, heartache and fears. So now what do we do?? How do we live our lives in light of the Resurrection? That's the million dollar question.

If Jesus really died for our sakes, for yours and for mine - if Jesus really overcame death and rose from the grave in order to give us the abundant and eternal life - then we can see all the challenges and pain in a new light. We can see them as temporary; we can see them as nothing compared with the power and love of God; and we can trust that, if Jesus overcame the grave for us, then He will overcome whatever it is we are wrestling with too. And this changes our perspective. It helps us to have hope. It helps us to endure whatever we might be going through, because we can trust that wherever there is a dead end in our life, God will overcome it.

This knowledge gives us joy and lightens our hearts. It emboldens us to proclaim that, not only is Jesus risen on Easter day, but he causes *us* to rise every single day of our own lives. To rise above the burdens of this world. And this causes us to rejoice. So, trust in the Resurrection's power to work in your life. Trust in its ability to transform your heart and mind so that suddenly everything is seen through the lens of new life. God will restore each and every one of us, one day. And in the meantime, He helps us to have hope because of Christ. I pray that as Easter recedes into the background, the power of its promise would continue to live in your hearts; so that, day by day, you would know that God is not finished with you yet. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Kara