

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

April 9, 2009

The rhythm of life for a kingdom dweller puts chronos in service of kairos, the cyclical in service of the directional, the calendar in service of the kingdom...As we submit our anarchy to a rhythm, in a sort of earthy, mystical way, all of life is lived lucidly, intentionally, and to the glory of God. Every washing becomes a baptism; every eating a communion. Every sleeping becomes a dying; every rising a resurrection.

-- Kenneth Gottman, from *Ministry and Mission*

Dear Cross Creeker:

Easter is finally here! It's time to celebrate life! It's time to enter into **THE RHYTHM OF LIFE**.

Easter is an important feast day in the Christian Church celebrating and commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead three days after his death by crucifixion. Some people choose to call it Resurrection Day or Resurrection Sunday. Call it what you will, Easter marks the end of Lent, that season of soul-work marked by prayer and reflection and preparation. And all of that soul-work...which can be weighty, difficult, gut wrenching but necessary (sort of like "going to the dentist")...is designed to help us tap into the wellspring of abundant life and deep joy. And for us in the Northern hemisphere, Easter happens in the Springtime, when all around us we see and sense an awakening to new life and energy after a long winter, thereby linking and grounding our faith to the very cycle of earth.

Easter is a moveable feast, meaning it is not fixed in relation to the civil calendar. Easter Sunday falls at some point between late March and late April each year, following the cycle of the Moon. After several centuries of disagreement, all churches accepted the computation of the Alexandrian Church (now the Coptic Church) that Easter is the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, which is the first moon whose 14th day (the ecclesiastic "full moon") is on or after March 21 (the ecclesiastic "vernal equinox"). I think this was a good decision, because it keeps our Holy Week linked to the Jewish Passover and Jesus' Jewish faith.

Easter is also a season of the church year called Eastertide, or the Easter Season, which lasts for fifty days, making Easter a mega feast of the church year. Some have called it the "Great Fifty Days." Eastertide ends with Pentecost and the beginning of ordinary time. But Easter... it is meant to be a celebration of life at its best and most glorious. It is a celebration of **EXTRAORDINARY TIME**.

But more importantly, I like to think of Easter more as a verb, rather than a noun. We don't just celebrate an event that happened thousands of years ago. We don't just mark a holy day on the Christian calendar. We don't just buy new clothes and eat ham. Instead, Easter names a way of life for those who would follow in the way of Jesus. In other words, we are an **EASTERING** people. We are a people who, because of Jesus, find a deep connection with God, who in spite of life's messiness, anxieties, troubles and grief, always leads us in the way of LIFE. In fact, to dance with God is to dance **THE RHYTHM OF LIFE!**

So let us party on fellow pilgrims! Let us go EASTER-ING! Let us know afresh the joy and exultation that comes when we dance to THE RHYTHM OF LIFE!

I'll be looking for you this weekend as we celebrate the joy of being an EASTER-ING people!

Peace, **Pastor Mike**

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IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will celebrate Easter and begin a new worship series called **THE RHYTHM OF LIFE**. Pastor Mike will be offering a prompting entitled "*Recalled to Life*". We'll be reading the Easter story from the gospels of Mark (1:1-8) and John (20:1-18) The **Cross Creek Choir** will be singing. We will feast at the Table of communion. We will sing with all our heart "*Christ the Lord is Risen Today.*"

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Worship in the Season of Easter
THE RHYTHM OF LIFE



April 11-12, 2009 – EASTER

Recalled to Life Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-18

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here.” Mark 16:6b

**Communion will be offered at all three weekend worship services **The Cross Creek Choir will be singing!*

April 18-19, 2009 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Life for the Hungry Psalm 133; Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

“...and great grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:33b

Guest Preacher: Rev. Sarah Rohrer, Bread for the World’s North Central Field Organizer

Testimony: Brian Worley, Feeding Friends Team Leader

This is a **Work-Ship Weekend and the bags of household items that have been collected will be bagged during worship for later distribution through our Feeding Friends Food Pantry*

April 25-26, 2009 – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Life for the Earth Psalm 4

“There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O God!” Psalm 4:6

**Guest Preacher: Dr. Kim Lockwood, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Dayton
and member of Cross Creek’s “Green Team”**

**Integrity of Creation Sunday / Earth Day (April 22) Celebration*

***The Drama Team will perform an original skit, written by Darren McGarvey called “GO GREEN!”*

May 2-3, 2009 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Abundant Life Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...” Psalm 23:6a

**Communion will be offered at all three weekend worship services.*

May 9-10, 2009 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Nurturing Life I John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

“There is no fear in love...” I John 4:18

Guest Preacher: Ruth Hopkins, Seminary Intern

**Mother’s Day Weekend.*

May 16-17, 2009 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Disturbing Life Psalm 98; Acts 10:44-48; John 15:9-17

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12

***The Cross Creek Choir will be singing!*

May 23-24, 2009 – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ASCENSION DAY)

A Connected Life Acts 1:1-11 (Ascension); Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; John 17:6-19

“So that they may be one...” John 17:11

Guest Preacher: Rev. Tom Harry

**Memorial Day Weekend ** The Drama Team will be performing!*

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For a complete listing of events, please go to www.crosscreekchurch.org.