

## We are Easter People Living in a Good Friday World

by Pastor Hope Deutscher

As I write this, we in a world we could never imagine: restaurants, bars, stores closed as hospitals and clinics are flooded with sick people, and the news tells us that more and more people are getting COVID-19 by the day. Meanwhile, most of us are under orders to “Stay At Home” for the next few weeks. I feel like it’s a bad dream I can’t wake up from. This past week, I was taken aback when a few friends suggested “we postpone Easter” until we are allowed back into the church buildings. Well, on the one hand, this has seemed like the longest Lent season in my life – and as some have said on Facebook, I did not plan to give up this much for Lent!

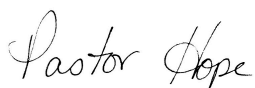
However, as I reflected on our lives as Christians and not only how we respond to the Pandemic today – but during Holy Week – I became stronger in my belief: if we have faith in God, we know that God is in the midst of today’s troubles but we also know that the events we celebrate on Easter changes everything for us.

Our world is full of darkness but Jesus’ death and resurrection tells us that this pandemic and its effect of illness, death, economic hardship, and isolation do not have the last word. For me, Jesus’ promises of grace, hope, mercy and new life give me hope each and every day! The season of Easter in the church year lasts for more than this one day. We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world.

“The Resurrection is more than even the promise of eternal life for you and me after we die,” says professor and Pastor Will Willimon in *“Undone by Easter.”* “Easter is the promise of the universal, cosmic triumph of God over all the forces of death and sin. Easter is wherever in the dark – whether out at a cemetery or a prayer meeting at Mary’s house – God dramatically demonstrates who is in charge. Easter is God’s justice accomplished, God’s kingdom come, God’s will being done at last on earth as it is in heaven.”

And that is what gets us through every day, even days that are filled with news and effects of a virus pandemic - God is walking each step of this journey with us. As we look forward to celebrating Easter in new ways gathered around computer and TV screens this year, we will celebrate Easter similar to how the first Easter was celebrated, without big fanfare, but we will celebrate the Risen Lord who loves us and changes our lives every day! And know that when we are gathered again in church sanctuaries, we will have a big celebration! In the meantime, we continue to be Easter people who are invited to share that Good news of the Resurrection with other people who are struggling in this Good Friday World.

God’s peace and blessings,



Pr. Hope Deutscher

### *Women’s Ministry Events*

#### **Zoom Gathering for Women – Wednesdays @ 7 p.m.**

While “in person” events are canceled, we will gather online in Zoom Video Conference Gatherings Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. All women are welcome to join us for a time of mutual support, prayer and hearing God’s Word. If you would like to join this gathering, please email Pr. Hope @ [hdeutscher@gmail.com](mailto:hdeutscher@gmail.com) and a link will be sent to you.

**Next Book Discussion (Date to be determined):** *What Happens When Women Walk in Faith: Trusting God Takes You to Amazing Places* by Lysa Teerkeurst.