

PASTOR SCOTT'S

MONTHLY MESSAGE



We are an Easter People

It is the time of Easter; a time of egg hunts, candy, Spring (hopefully), new outfits, and family gatherings. It is not the *Sunday* of Easter, but the *season* of Easter, the six weeks leading up to Pentecost (May 20th this year). And this *Easter season* is a good time to remind ourselves that we are an *Easter people* (all year) - which means we are a rather odd set of folk.

We are a people open to death. Open to the death of who we perceive (or hope) we are, in order to come alive to the persons Christ created us to be.

In our present environment of division among people, of assaults on democracy, of intentional lies spoken for the expressed purpose to deceive it would be easy, even natural, to slip into despair. But, we are a people of hope. Of hope founded upon the promise of God, revealed through his Son that the good has already won.

Many lurk in darkness, for it helps hide our misdeeds. Some carry out in the dark of night that which they don't want others to see or know of. Some hide their actions behind the darkness of secrets or anonymity. But, we are a people that stand in the light of Christ. People who stand in this bright light so that all we do can be plainly seen, and be seen not as our creations but as the acts and wonders of God.

We are an Easter people who respond to hate, anger and violence with the overwhelming power of love. We are people who when insulted don't strive for the "one up," but reach out the hand of compassion and empathy. We are the people who when shouted at *listen*, listen to the words, and the pain, and the confusion, and the fear. We are the people who willingly step into the suffering of others and journey with them to let them know they are not alone, and that they belong.

St. Francis wrapped this up succinctly in a prayer:

- Where there is hatred / offense / discord / error / doubt / despair / darkness / sadness let me bring love / pardon / union / truth / faith / hope / your light / joy.
- Let me not seek as much to be consoled / understood / loved as to console / understand / love.
- For it is in giving / self-forgetting / pardoning / dying that one receives / finds / is pardoned / is raised to eternal life.

And, as Easter people, we mess up, stray off the path, and just flat-out sin. But we don't have to carry that weight, let it go. For Christ and the prophets assure us that we are a forgiven people. We repent, and strive to do better - we are assured that in our acknowledging and asking we are truly forgiven. Christ has taken our sin that we may *live* as those "odd Easter people"!

Pastor Scott