Dear friends,

What joy it was to celebrate Easter Sunday together! I loved watching the children laugh and play as they searched for Easter eggs. Our Fellowship Committee and volunteers provided a delicious brunch with plenty for all! Worship was a true celebration – with neighbors, friends, and members gathered to hear the good news of Christ's resurrection. The Lord is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

In case you missed it, you can find the service at https://www.youtube.com/live/bFtfVzDpFIQ. I invite you to take the time to sing the hymns, pray the prayers and meditate on the scripture readings and sermon. Turn up the volume to listen to the choir as they sing anthems that interpret the transforming power of the resurrection for all of us. Feel the power of the promises of God. Experience the joy.

I don't know about you, but I needed to hear these promises of God's defeat of sin and death. This past year, I have been at the bedside of many I have loved as they have journeyed through their last days on this earth. A few weeks ago, I sat at the bedside of a dear friend and whispered the promises of God into her ear one last time. They say people can hear you even when they can't speak or even squeeze your hand. So I whispered God's promises into her ear. The good news of God's resurrection promise was for her, and for those who had gone before in the months and years ahead, and for you and me one day. Thanks be to God.

In my sermon Sunday, I commented on how Matthew's gospel says that the women left the empty tomb with "fear and great joy." Great joy because the angel told them that their Lord had been raised! The great joy was accompanied with fear, too, though, because they did not know what was ahead for them and what a resurrected Jesus meant for their future.

We don't know what is ahead for us, either, but we know we are called to live as people of the resurrection, people who do not despair, people who always rejoice, people who claim the promises of God for our loved ones as well as for ourselves.

We don't know what is ahead, but we know that God goes with us. We know what it means to follow Jesus. May God give us strength to live as resurrection people. It is the only way to true life.

With love to you all this Easter season,
Mindy