Rev's Reflections

At the congregation my dear husband serves as minister, there is one person who leads the Herculean efforts to serve coffee and food after every service. Last week he asked Joe if there was anything in particular he would like for the spread. Joe affirmed that the usual offerings would be just fine, but joked that he would expect traditional butter lambs on the buffet table. The poor guy had no idea what Joe was talking about.

Honestly, I had no idea what he was talking about, and I've been with the guy for 14 years! Apparently in Michigan, my husband's home state, there's a tradition of serving butter in the shape of lambs on Easter. The way Joe talks about it, it would be UNTHINKABLE to serve butter in the usual way on Easter. Not that Joe celebrates Easter. I think last year we had chick pea pasta on Easter Sunday.

The fact that I had no idea these lamb-shaped 1-oz pats of butter even existed got me wondering about traditions I don't know about. Foods people eat. Holidays they celebrate.

Last night, (Monday) we went out for a family dinner at our favorite vegetarian Indian restaurant. It's so good, my mother-in-law doesn't even mind that there is no meat on the menu. Every time we go, we request server recommendations, because we want to try it all. Last night our server was so happy about our openness to new experiences, she was visibly moved. On the way out, she asked if we'd leave a positive review of the restaurant on Google. Of course we said yes. Then, as we turned to leave I wished her happy Holi. She nearly burst into tears. She composed herself and returned the greeting to us.

Clearly white-looking folks don't wish her a happy Holi very often. If you don't know what Holi is, I'd like to invite you to Google it!

I think when we are curious about the celebrations, traditions and practices of other people, it makes a big difference in how we see each other. It makes us actually see each other. And when we see each other, we tend to appreciate each other. Maybe that's a naive way of looking at things, but I'm sticking to it.

Now, I have to go find some lamb-shaped pats of butter. Anybody have any ideas?

In Peace,
Rev Denis