Resurrecting Resurrection

In recent days, Rev. Nayiri and I have had a series of conversations about Lent and Easter, and somewhere along the way I admitted something that felt honest, if a little revealing: it is much easier for me to focus on Lent than it is on Easter.

Lent gives me something to do. Something to examine. Something to uncover. It invites reflection, honesty, repentance, and the naming of what is unfinished or broken. In some ways, that terrain feels more familiar to me. I think I also have a tendency to treat Easter like an end- goal — the place we are trying to get to — rather than a transition into a new way of living. And maybe that is especially true here in Florida, where spring lasts about two weeks before it starts feeling suspiciously like summer.

In fact, I've noticed how many emails this week have begun with the phrase, "Circling back..."

As if Easter is over, and now it is time to resume things as they were. As if resurrection was a beautiful interruption, but not a reality meant to reshape how we see and live.

But Easter does give us something to do, and something to examine.

It asks us to notice where we have become more fluent in crucifixion than in resurrection. Where we expect disappointment more easily than renewal. Where we are quick to recognize what is broken, but slow to notice what is being made new.

Perhaps that is why the Easter season stretches on. Resurrection is not something we absorb in a moment. It takes time.

Because crucifixion is not hard to recognize. We know pain, grief, fear, and uncertainty well enough. And in a world so conditioned to crucifixion, it can feel natural to keep returning our attention there. But I am trying harder to look for resurrection — for the quieter signs of life, courage, tenderness, hope, and love that insist death and despair do not have the final word.

Easter does not erase Good Friday. The risen Christ still bears scars. But resurrection insists that suffering does not have the last word.

So perhaps the work of this season is to keep resurrecting resurrection — to let it rise again in our attention, our imagination, and our way of moving through the world. To resist moving on too quickly. To keep watch for signs of life.

Easter is not over. Thanks be to God.

And I see that as good news for those of us who need more than a day to learn how to live like the reality of resurrection has more to reveal in this world.

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