



*Pastor Elaine's Ponderings*

**Christ Is Risen!  
He is Risen Indeed!**

My friends, we have made it thru the longest, strangest Lenten season that I can recall. How about you?

Covid-19 rages on, but fear, isolation, quarantine and even illness and death can not stop the Love of God In Christ Jesus.

Easter came anyway. Resurrection Day was celebrated in homes and nearly empty basilica, online and on television and computer all over this round planet. Even in the Darkest moments we can experience, even when we cannot feel it Christ is there.

Alive.

Transformed from Death to new life.

And so are we.

In the words of poet and musician Buffy Sainte Marie, **God is alive and magic is afoot!**

Look around you. Trees are bursting with budding leaves and dogwood and lilac fill our streets and hillsides with a mystical joy. Little birds feed and sing and friends gather by phone, Zoom, Facebook, Reddit.

Life and love cannot be held back. Christ Is Risen, Indeed!

Easter worship was a glorious thing with Cantata and hymn, scripture read by various members and the worship we love, in the Sanctuary we miss, filmed on my phone all edited together beautifully by music director, Roanne Dean.

During our Quarantine Days our Sunday Worship and Daily Check ins can be found at [facebook.com/abbeyroadchristianchurch](https://facebook.com/abbeyroadchristianchurch) OR you can just do a search on FB for the Church name.

But what if you don't use Facebook? Worry not! Because industrious and clever TechnoElves in the Piker Household have been posting Dave and my daily Check ins & Devotions, and the Sunday Worship for you to watch and enjoy! The Daily Devotions and first two services are available on our Vimeo page.

For daily devotionals go to <http://www.vimeo.com/abbeyroad>

And here is a direct link to the Maundy Thursday service with the orientation Fixed. Hurray Piker Tech Elves!! [Maundy Thursday Service April 9, 2020](#)

So for folk who don't use Facebook or Vimeo, they can just use these links.

[Sermon Videos: All videos may be watched full screen by clicking the graphic just to the left of the word Vimeo at the bottom r...](#)

Last but by no means least, if you just can't access the internet at all we can bring you DVDs of the devotions and services and we are working on recording them to CD or tape. So if you are someone who would prefer a DVD, CD or Cassette Tape, please let us know at church or by calling or emailing Pastor Elaine.

And know this -

You are deeply and immeasurably loved by the Creator and, Sustainer all!

And we love you, too!

Blessings in these temporarily troublesome days in Christ Jesus our Savior and Friend.



*Pastor Elaine*

- A donation to the Food Bank was made by Randy & Judy McLain in honor of their son, Colin's, birthday on March 22.
- Please remember to keep your pledge current during our time apart!
- ARCC will soon have a fire pit & benches provided by Kaleb Posey as his Eagle Scout project. Donations to help offset the cost of materials (\$250) are being taken. Please designate "Eagle Scout project" in the memo line of your check.

*Group Meditation/Centering Prayer—April 19—2:30pm* There is strength in numbers even though we cannot be with one another in person. Join us this Sunday afternoon for group meditation or centering prayer. [This Sunday's intent will be PATIENCE.](#)

If you have questions, contact David Dickey or Anne McDonough.



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*From the Christian Church of Mid-America*

L: Christ Is Risen!

P: Christ Is Risen, Indeed!

This Easter Call to Worship has stood for decades in many congregations. Last Sunday, the L:s may not have been able to hear the refrain, though perhaps a car horn honk or a Facebook Like took its stead. God's beloved, we have not had an Easter like this before and hope to never again, but this doesn't mean we were short on blessings. My family chose to watch the Christian Church's service on YouTube produced by Andra Moran and Suzanne Castle with GMP Terri Hord Owens preaching and presiding at the table. Andra, who sang as lovely as ever, gave us "permission" to scrounge up any communion elements we could find around the house. All we could find near our couch were Special K flakes and dog kisses. It worked! (I highly recommend that our over-working pastors consider showing this beautiful service, or parts as it is broken up into modules too, for this Low Sunday service. It importantly reminds us all of our General Church connection.)

For Good Friday, I joined our regional prayer vigil and did a contemplative sit in the wooded watershed behind my house. It was a gorgeous experience with warm sunshine and visits from spirit animals of deer, a fox, tadpoles, bumble bee, butterfly, and hawk. Even the squirrels scurrying up and down the trees sounded like a marimba playing a hymn. Even on a somber day amid sad circumstances, all I could see was Life! Yes, death cannot be denied but Easter shows that death is transformed!

Easter worship services across our region were transformed into perhaps extra-appreciated times of connection - whether virtually, pre-recorded, delivered in the mail, or in a parking lot. I believe many of these discoveries are and should be here to stay! New congregations are being formed by those discovering your alternative presence. We say that we can't wait to "go back to normal." But in the scheme of reality of our society, and maybe even our church life, we don't need to go back to normal because "normal" wasn't always working. As Terri Hord Owens preached: "We are in a time of disruption but on Easter Sunday, the Church was born amid disruption."

My Holy Saturday, or the day to live in dark liminal space, was spent by me participating in three sacred council circles in Missouri and across the nation. Jack from Virginia, who shared that he was just laid off but nonetheless remains incredibly hopeful and expectant for himself and our new world, told this legend:

While Jesus was on the cross, a nondescript plain brown bird flew up to him and noticed the crown of thorns piercing his head. She wrapped her small talons around a thorn and flapped her wings viciously trying to remove it from his head to provide some relief. One by one thorn she labored to full exhaustion. As she now lay motionless on the ground it was noticed by Jesus that in her effort, his blood had drenched her breast. From then on the blood remained is passed on to her offspring. We call this red-breasted bird, Robin, and her arrival each spring coincides with the coming miracle we call Easter. She remains a sign of his sacrifice and our honoring to remove pain in people's lives.

After relaying this legend, Jack shared how he is transfixed by a mama Robin who is sitting on three eggs in a nest of a nearby tree limb. This limb is rather exposed, so he labors to conceal it by bending some other branches around it, scaring away cats, and keeping an eye on it from his window. Christ is risen, indeed! Love is spreading more quickly than any virus ever can.

Rise! We are proud to be your regional ministers, and invite you to join in our [Zoom conversation](#) at 11:00 this morning. You can connect by computer or just by phone. Our topic is caring for your congregation and yourself during the crisis.

Ron Routledge, Regional Minister  
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Paul Koch, Regional Minister  
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John & Deborah Browne, Luther Hunt, Maxie McKenzie & family, Mark Faith, Bill Cox, Joe Robb Blattner, Debbie McCormick, Susan Spooler, Carol Gleason, Liz Meyer, Debbie Bradley, Thelma Nelson, Dawn Knoderer, Kim Farrar Frank, George Amick, Bill & Iris Likens, Pat Murray & Wally Allstun, Ed Sheridan & Nita Brackin, Pauline Filla, Ruth Dockins, Mary Glick, Kim Wells Schott, Mary Hendrix, healthcare workers, relatives & friends serving in the military, all who are hurting, lonely, and afraid. **Do you have someone to add to our prayer list? Please inform the church office or fill out a form**

**found at the back of the sanctuary.**