



Dear Friends,

It's handy that Easter is tucked nicely into the beginning of Spring. As the celebration of the resurrection, it makes sense that we would have physical reminders, especially in a northern clime, of life coming back into view. The hibernating world, hunkered down to shoulder against the long winter, begins to once again wake up, reach upward, and sprout new life. Spring, in my humble opinion, is the most hopeful of the seasons. It seems to have limitless possibility and promise. In many of the same ways, Easter provides hope in the same ways.

Easter is the season of hope. It's the promise of God being fulfilled in the conquering of death, and in bringing forth new life. It's the promise that the way things are isn't the way things have to be. And to be honest, that news hits differently and feels more welcome to me now than in other times. It's been a different year, full of varying challenges and gifts and shaped by the realities of the pandemic. The challenges are those of community, of gathering, of connectedness. We've lost loved ones, and missed out on seeing and sharing with loved ones. Having been shouldering against the challenges of these times, I'm ready for the Spring-like hope that the resurrection brings.

In that spirit, and trusting in God's unchanging love, this is what I hope for in this celebration of Jesus' resurrection:

I hope that we can soon start safely coming back to being together to work and to worship. I've missed you dearly.

I hope that when we do, we truly appreciate the gift of one another's presence, and that we honour that gift by taking the opportunity to deepen relationships and to enjoy one another joyfully.

I hope that a by-product of this difficult time is that we come back with a renewed delight in the ministry of welcoming and service to others.

I hope that in the meantime, each one of you will know just how valued, cherished, and important you are to the loving God who created you, and in this community of faith.

I hope the possibility of new life in the resurrection births strengthened hope today and in all the days to come.

In peace and love,

*Peace +
M/ik*