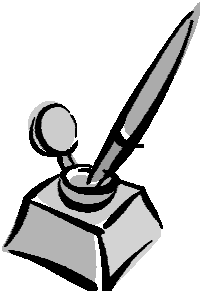


Bo's Blog



The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

We are in the Easter season now, which began the last Sunday of April and goes until Pentecost Sunday, June 12. It is a season of joy, after the seriousness of Lent. It is for us a reminder that the risen Christ is with us. It goes beyond Easter Egg hunts, chocolate, ham or lamb dinner, maybe some new clothes, and a good ending to what could have been a tragic story. It is the celebration of nothing less than the changing of God's relationship with humanity. That sounds important, and it is. There is no more "chosen people." There is now "God's people." And each of God's people is now given the responsibility to maintain and live out that faith.

Maintaining our faith is as simple as saying "He is risen indeed!" It is our statement of "This I believe." We maintain our faith through personal spiritual practices, like prayer, reading scripture, going on retreats, journaling, attending worship, and more. Living out our faith is more difficult, though, because that involves doing things which might not be easy or comfortable for us in our families, workplaces, or communities. It is what C. S. Lewis calls "Christian Behavior," the title of the third book in "Mere Christianity." He bases Christian behavior on Jesus' teaching, "Do to others what you would have them do to you." It sounds simple, and a lot of people agree it's a good idea. But often times our self-interest interferes with carrying it out. When it may incur a cost of time, or money, or inconvenience to us, we may, just this once, avoid the morally right action.

Fortunately, the good news of Easter is that, when we have taken a wrong turn in our behavior, God is there to help us turn back. Christian behavior is our goal, and should always be what we are striving toward, but when we fail, as we will, God's grace, and often the grace of others around us, welcomes us back to try again. The joy of Easter is not just about the eternal life we may have with God through Christ, but also about the grace we receive to "do to others, what we would have them do to us" in this life. Alleluia!

Shalom,
Bo