



After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,
 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord,
 descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.
 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.
 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel
 said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for
 Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised,
 as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell
 his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead
 of you to Galilee; there you will see him."

This is my message for you.
 -Matthew 28:1-8 (NRSV)

Each time I read a passage about the Easter Miracle I am touched by it in a new way. It no longer matters to me so much that I don't know how this miracle happened, but what fascinates me is that something did happen on that morning so long ago that forever transformed the lives of those who saw, and touched once again, their teacher and their friend Jesus. It made such a difference to the lives of a few people two thousand years ago that their witness has stretched out across the distance of time to touch our lives today. That is powerful stuff. For me Jesus isn't about "religion" it is about the transformation that he brings to the lives of those who choose to seriously think about what his life and message can mean for them today. For me the story of Jesus' resurrection is about looking for new life in the ashes that are all around us: the nightly news, our community, or in our own lives. What new green, growing thing is sprouting right now, right under our noses that we haven't as yet noticed? Some may think Christians are overly optimistic but I like to think that we are practical people who know how to dream big.

It is hard to believe that seven months have passed since I introduced myself to you as your new minister. In my first sermons and letters, I spoke about how I was looking forward to walking and working with you on the dreams that you have for this ministry in Barrhaven and I think we have begun that walk together. In the past few months there has been joys and great sadness. But through all of it we have supported one another and I have to say that I find your Spirit to be a true blessing to this place.

I leave you with my Lenten blessing for you: May the Lord of Light ease your burden, bring you comfort and stir you to dream big. May you find the new life of Easter in the most unlikely of places.

Blessing,
Rev. Carla
 Rev. Carla Van Delen
 Barrhaven United Church, Barrhaven ON.



BUC Lenten and Easter Worship Calendar 2018



Ash Wednesday Service February 14th from 11:30AM-12:30PM

Lent 1: Sunday February 18th "Black History through Song"
-Let us celebrate the contribution of black men and women in this country by not forgetting the injustice brought against a people for hundreds of years.

Lent 2: Sunday February 25th
-Congregational meeting after the service

Lent 3: Sunday March 4th Intergenerational Service
-Drama based on the book "In God's Hand's" by Lawrence Kushner and Gary Schmidt, children's choir sing " I Prayed in the Tub" and sacrament of Communion.

Lent 4: Sunday March 11th

Lent 5: Sunday March 18th

Palm Sunday March 25th
-processional of palm branches and cedar boughs
(Cedar: to honor our local environment and the indigenous peoples of this area)

Good Friday March 30th at 10:00AM
-Service of the Shadows: The Tale of the 12 Cups

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday April 1st at 6:30AM
-Meet at Mowat Farm Park on Fable Street. We will meet at the top of the hill. We will return to BUC for coffee, tea and muffins after the service.

Easter Sunday Service April 1st at 10:00AM
- We will be celebrating the sacrament of Baptism while we renew our own Baptismal vows. Some very special "babies" will also be here.

Sunday April 8th at 10:30AM "Holy Humor Sunday"
-Does humor and faith go together? Come and find out, oh and bring your knock, knock, jokes.

- for up to date information on these services and other events please visit our website at www.barrhavenunited.org and join our Facebook page
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