



Good morning everyone –

In his book, *Wishful Thinking* author Frederick Buechner poses these questions:

- **Have you wept at anything during the past year?**
- **Has your heart beat faster at the sight of young beauty?**
- **Have you thought seriously about the fact that someday you are going to die?**
- **Is there anybody you know in whose place, if you had to suffer great pain, you would volunteer yourself?**

Buechner concludes, “If you answer to all or most of these questions is ‘No’, the chances are that you’re dead. There is only one miracle,” he writes. “It is life.”

What has your past year been like? How is life treating you? Where have you experienced great joy or great sorrow?

This week is the holiest in the church’s calendar as the Christian Church narrates through word and song the last days of Jesus Christ. Rich and heartbreaking in its detail, this story acknowledges the realities not only of Christ’s life, but of a world that is filled with violence, corrupt regimes, lust for power, anger and greed. As Christians enter into their Holy Week liturgies they are able to meditate on suffering and death.

I invite you to join us as we begin the final three day journey in Holy Week at the Ascension, the Triduum, that will take us from an Upper Room where a supper will be shared, and on to a judgement hall, a hill, and finally a garden tomb. I pray that as you worship with us that you will discover anew the power of resurrection hope – that new life is possible even where there is despair, suffering, and death.

Rowan Williams says this about resurrection life, *Resurrection is the re-creating of a relationship of trust and love on the far side of the most extreme human realities of suffering, abandonment and death. And so the conclusion of the gospel is to say that faith in the crucified and risen Christ is possible, and that we must go on reading and listening until we find it.*” (Meeting God in Mark)

This Easter – choose life!

God bless,

Anne