



He is Risen!

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite Easter Hymns is ...

***Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.***

Spring is a time of excitement, anticipation, and the hope of new beginnings. As the hard winter earth thaws and softens, we notice that wonderful smell of spring. We know it is time to plant the seed to bring new life to the world. We hear again the singing of the birds. The green shoots rise from the earth and become daffodils at our homes and at Emmanuel Church. The trees blossom with the promise of bearing new fruit. There is that old familiar feeling of hope, and even spring fever which we recall from our youth.

God is always doing something new and wonderful in His bountiful creation. God gave us the gift of wheat – *fruit of the earth and work of human hands* that becomes for us the bread of life. In Genesis, God gave Joseph the dreamer a vision of seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Joseph stores the precious wheat and God saves nations • Israel and Egypt. God invites all of us to participate in this act of sustaining life and ongoing creation.

God so loves the world that he sends his only Son. Planted in the earth, Jesus rises again and offer us the gift of eternal life in Christ.

In our fellowship and prayer, through our listening to the Word of God and in the breaking of the bread, we at Emmanuel Church recall God's saving grace through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

On Palm Sunday we welcome our one true King, Jesus of Nazareth, into the Holy City of Jerusalem with shouts of ***Hosanna in the Highest***. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus washes his disciples feet before the Lord's supper, teaching us to love and serve one another. How fickle the human heart and how quickly the shouts become, ***Crucify him, Crucify him!*** All of humanity suffers under the bondage of sin, and our Lord proclaims from the cross on Good Friday, ***Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do.***

When it seems that all hope is lost, the Risen Christ appears at the tomb to Mary Magdalene.

***Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.***

God invites all of us to participate in this great drama of our own salvation. I invite you to come and share in the grace of God in Word, Sacrament, and fellowship at Emmanuel Church.

What does God have in store for you? Come and see ...