



The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring
Pastoral Message
April 2010

Easter Eggs & Easter Eyes

Easter eggs were a wonderful part of Easter celebrations for me as a child. I recall a whole range of experiences, including coloring chicken eggs, painting ceramic eggs, hunting Easter eggs, and eating chocolate eggs. Easter would not have been quite the same without those wonderful Easter egg experiences.

For Christians, Easter eggs are a symbol of the resurrection, and of new life and new possibilities. We have borrowed our ideas about Easter eggs with our Jewish cousins who include a hard-boiled egg dipped in salt water in their Passover celebrations, and our pagan friends who trace their heritage to the Saxons, who incorporated eggs in their rites of spring.

Russian Orthodox Christians and the Martha Stewarts among us typically go to great pains to create beautiful Easter eggs that are a feast for the eyes and the taste buds. The older I get, the more I am drawn to Easter eggs for their visual qualities which remind us that our Easter celebrations are not complete without Easter eyes.

Easter eyes are the eyes of faith that look into the tomb and see resurrection rather than resignation. They are eyes that see a hope-filled future rather than a dead end marked by doom and gloom. They are eyes that scan the horizon searching for others to tell what they have seen and heard.

As we move through Holy Week and prepare to celebrate the festival of Easter, my prayer for each and every one of us is that we may look upon these sacred days with Easter eyes—fully aware that suffering is not our purpose, that death is not the end, and that God has already broken open a future filled with hope and promise for us and for all.

Wishing you a blessed Holy Week and a very Happy Easter,

Arlene