



He is Risen!!!

Rejoice!!!

Easter Greeting 2021 from Rev. Neal

For this year's Greeting, I'm drawing heavily on parts of an editorial I recently read in *Gathering: Resources for Worship Planners*. It's written by Rev. Ivan Gregan and entitled *Held in the Womb*.

"...The womb is a place of nurture and growth, yet it's not a place that's free from danger and death. We know at the end of nine months, a baby's time there has come to an end.

When a baby's in the womb, he or she or they hear rumours of what's beyond their wonderfully warm, nurturing, living space. When we were pregnant and the baby was unsettled and unsettling, I would sing him an old Gaelic lullaby in the womb and he would calm down and be at ease. He heard rumours from beyond and settled down knowing that, even beyond his ken, there lay a world that enticed him to be at peace. When the day came for him to exit the womb, he had to leave behind everything he knew, the place where he was nurtured, where he felt secure, and where his home had been for his entire life. Through a difficult passage and through a time that seemed forever, he died to everything he knew and was born into this world of which he'd only heard rumours. Loving hands were here to receive him. Whenever he had difficulty settling, I would rock him and sing the same old Gaelic lullaby as I did when he was in the womb. He would quickly relax and fall into a peaceful sleep, hearing a melody from a time in which he no longer lived.

The Celtic liturgies describe the worship space as a womb. While there, we sing songs that unite us in a place and time beyond our present reality, either back into the past to safety and comfort or forward into the new reality into which God is calling us..."

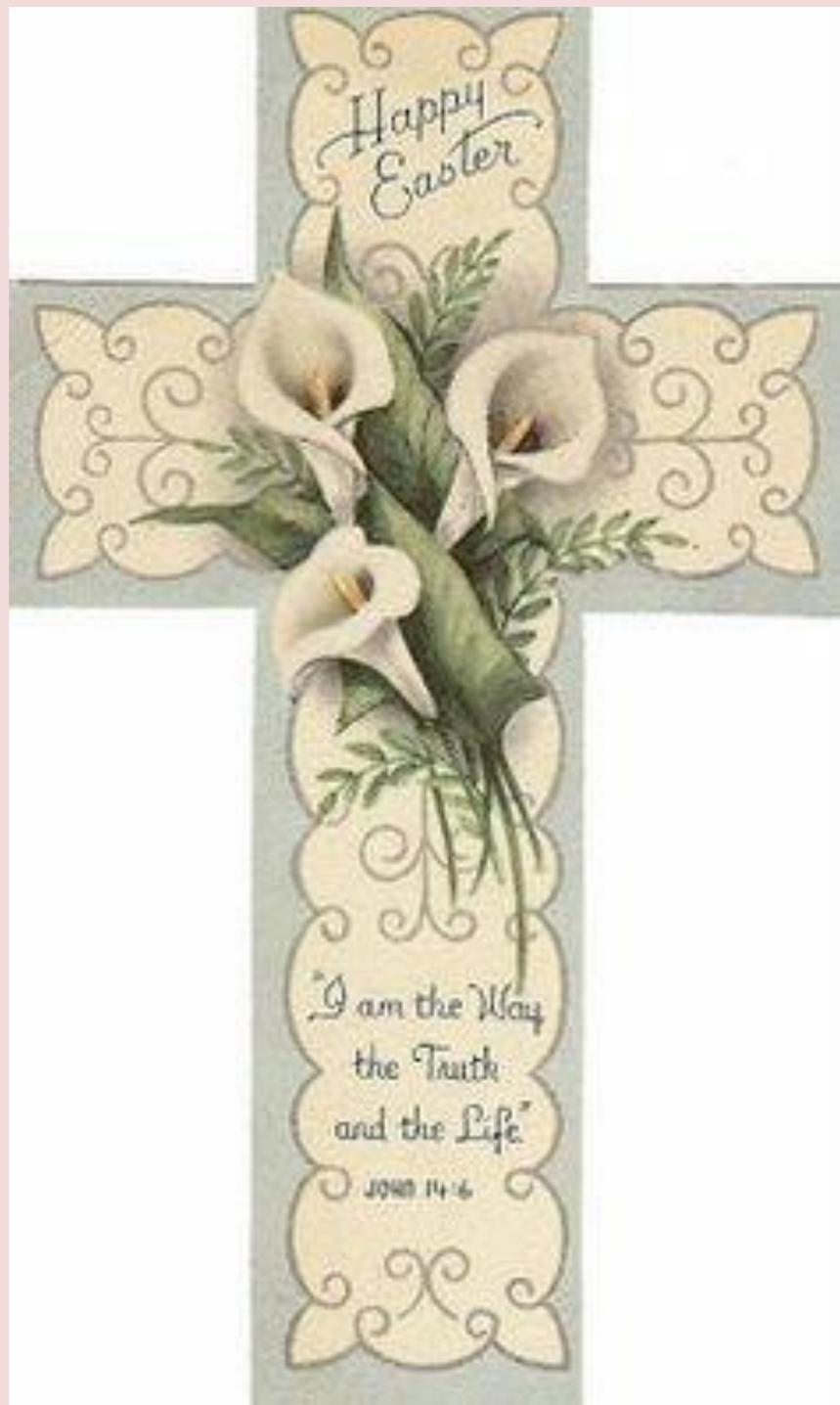
Friends, for the past year, due to COVID, we've been in a kind of womb too. Not one, unfortunately, where we've been able to sing, but one nevertheless, where we've been able to unite in what Gregan calls *our present reality*. Much of that time, of course, spent in safety—detached from others/estranged from the pandemic. That, I believe, was and continues to be the wise choice, for now, at least. Recently, though, I've been asked with increasing frequency if I think people will return to church once the pandemic is over, or, at the very least, when it's somewhat contained. With the province's recent announcement, that it hopes to immunize all residents by Canada Day, to what Gregan refers to as being *the new reality into which God is calling us*," we're about, I believe, to find out. Early on, when broached with that query, I wasn't so sure. It was, after all, going to be a while. And people, naturally, do find other things to do.

But, having said that, we mustn't forget who we are. As Christians, after all, we're an Easter people. We rejoice, in other words, in death and resurrection. With that, the answer becomes clear. I know you'll be back! That, and the fact, many of you have never left. :o)

Happy Easter everyone!!! We'll look forward to seeing you soon.

With much love & thankfulness,

Rev. Neal



Happy
Easter

"I am the Way
the Truth
and the Life"
JOHN 14:6

HOW TO MAKE A BEADED CROSS

*Instructions Created by The Rev. Catherine Stuart
Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults
Lent 2021*

Items Needed:

You will need 11 pony beads. I like to use 10 of the same colour and 1 different colour for the centre, but 11 of any colour will do.

You will need one piece of yarn, or twine, the length of your arms stretched out.

Step 1: Take one of the 10 beads and string the yarn through it so that it is on the middle of the piece of yarn.



Step 2: Take 3 more of the 10 beads and string them through both pieces of yarn so that they stack on top of one another.



Step 3: Take one bead (it can be the one of different colour if you're doing that) and put one of the strings through in one direction, and the other string in the other direction. This creates the centre of the cross.



Step 4: Take 2 more of the 10 beads. On one side, string the yarn through both beads, and take the yarn and string it back through the bead furthest from the centre. Repeat on the other side. This creates the arms of the cross.



Step 5: Take the remaining 2 beads and string both pieces of yarn through them. This creates the top of your cross.



Step 6: Create a double knot on the top of the cross so that the beads don't fall off.



Step 7: Either using clip knots or just tying the yarn, make the necklace part.



RESURRECTION ROLLS

1. Start with your favourite roll recipe or use the following recipe:

In a large dish put:

- 3 cups of warm water
- 2 Tbsp yeast (The Kingdom of heaven!)
- 6 Tbsp oil
- 2 eggs beaten
- Add 4 cups of flour
- 1 ½ tsp of salt
- 8 Tbsp sugar



Mix together and add 4-5 cups of flour and knead well. **Let rise 15 minutes**
Punch down and let rise again (double in bulk)

2. To make Resurrection Rolls you will also need:

- Melted butter
- Cinnamon Sugar (best ratio is 1:4 so 1Tbsp of cinnamon to ¼ cup sugar)
- Marshmallows

3. Resurrection Roll Instructions

Make a circle of bread/roll dough. Pretend that it is the cloth that was wrapped around Jesus' body.

You will need a marshmallow cut in half ... pretend it is Jesus' body.

Dip the marshmallow into melted butter ... this is the precious oil.

Then roll the marshmallow in a cinnamon and sugar mixture ... these are the precious spices.

Put the marshmallow in the center of the circle of dough, pull up all the edges and seal well by pinching hard. Continue until ingredients are used up or you wish to make the rest of roll dough into ordinary rolls.

Place the rolls in a well-greased baking pan touching each other. Allow to rise for one hour until double in size.

Then bake the rolls at 350°F for 25-30 minutes until browned top and bottom ... pretend the oven is a tomb.

After baking and cooling, your Resurrection Rolls will be empty inside. Just like the empty tomb on Easter Sunday morning, Jesus is Risen! Hallelujah!

Resurrection Roll recipe prepared by Mark and Shirley Hazen.

Community Outreach

Our team continues to be very active and we wish to thank you for your continued support during these strange COVID times.

We donate peanut butter to the Volunteer Centre, and with your help, met our 900 unit quota once again in 2020. A donation of \$1,300.00 was given from the Christmas Benevolence Appeal. The Volunteer Center is grateful for all the assistance that we have been able to give them as there is a great need within the Bathurst area.

We have assisted an individual in need with a food voucher earlier this year and most recently assisted a mother from the women's shelter transition to St. John for safety of the family.

*Hope
is some extraordinary spiritual grace
that God gives us to control our fears,
not to oust them.
~Vincent McNabb~*

Did You Know - A couple of really good ways to keep updated on First United Church events are to check out our website at www.firstunited-bathurst.ca or to follow us on Facebook. Here you will find upcoming events as well as cancellations if the need arises.

PAR - Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is a convenient way to support the ongoing work of your church. Your monthly contributions are taken directly from your bank account or charged to a major credit card. Currently we have 94 households using this method of support. Signing up for PAR takes only a few minutes and can be done for you at the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card number.

Newsletters - If you wish to have your letters in the future sent directly to your email send your request to fristadmin@nb.aibn.com. Your donations can be mailed to:
First United Church, 309 St Patrick Street, Bathurst, NB E2A 1E2

A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL EVENTS are being offered by the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters (FSLDW) Regional Council Affirm Standing Committee. The webinars will each take place from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Atlantic) using zoom video conferencing. Please save the dates in your calendars!

Future Dates (Registration and details to follow closer to the event dates):

April 15, 2021: What is Ableism

May 13, 2021: Creating Safe Spaces

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGION - latest updates, obituaries, resources, etc.

Anyone who would like to subscribe to the FSLDW newsletter may do so at:

<https://ucceast.ca/fundy-st-lawrence-dawning-waters-regional-council-14/>