

All Excited About Nothing

Does Easter ever feel like a time to make a fuss over nothing? I mean, when you strip away the bunnies and the eggs (and why do those two go together? Rabbits are viviparous, not oviparous! Go look it up...), when you strip away the jelly beans and chocolate, when you strip away the Easter lilies and the trumpet fanfare, what is the fuss really all about?

Nothing.

That's right: nothing. Exactly what was found in Jesus' tomb by the women who went looking for his body that first Easter morning: nothing. They were dumbfounded at first, until it dawned on them: If there is nothing here....that means Jesus is out among the living! "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" came God's message. "He is not here. He is Risen!" They found nothing in the tomb, but believe you me, they made quite a fuss about it! And so do we, all these centuries later.

Please join us this week, for Maundy Thursday's remembrance of Jesus' last supper (Thursday, April 1 at 7:00pm), and for Good Friday's stripping away of everything but what is essential about Jesus' life and death (Friday, April 2 at 7:00pm). And then, when everything is laid bare, come celebrate Nothing with us on Easter Sunday at 10:00am. I sure hope you get all excited about absolutely nothing.

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On a personal note – most of you will have heard by now that my appendix cancer has returned, and I have begun chemotherapy again. You are asking what you can do, how you can help, and I thank you. As I write this, we are just beginning to figure that out. What we know, you can read about on the "Care" page of this newsletter. If you want to keep up with how I'm doing and what I'm up to, I invite you to go to www.caringbridge.org, and in the box for "visit a site," enter karenebert. I keep a blog there.

In the mean time, I personally have Nothing to hang onto in the midst of the illness – the fact that nothing, "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8: 38-39).

Nothing worth celebrating.