It has been a year and once again we celebrate an Easter Sunday so unlike the ones we cherish. Still surrounded by a pandemic and still separated from the faith communities that make Easter come alive. In that separation is deep grief for the loss and pain of these days and the unmet longing for our best resource to meet it—each other.

But when the disciples feared going outside after Jesus’ execution, Jesus came to them in the glory and the mystery of resurrection and revealed what is happening all the time. Even now as you read this.

Reality is always moving toward death and resurrection. The coronavirus has awakened our death denying culture to the very real limitations of being human. Not just the death of the physical body, but all the moments when we have reached the end of our own resources and had to let go of how we wanted life to be.

These deaths are opportunities to practice a reliance on God’s grace in the process of transformation. Too often we will look for someone to blame for having to change and there is a lot of blaming these days. None of it helps us to surrender to the moment or to the grace of God active in it. And it’s the surest way to a death of the heart and soul on the way to the death of body.

But if you do choose to walk through the depths—the loss of our traditional Easter rituals among all the rest— you will come out the other side, knowing you’ve been taken there by a Source larger than yourself. As it happens in this life, so too shall it happen in the life to come.

In the words of Theologian Fr. Richard Rohor, “If we are to speak of miracles, the most miraculous thing of all is that God uses the very thing that would normally destroy you—the tragic, sorrowful, painful, or unjust—to transform and enlighten you. Now you are indestructible; there are no dead ends. Resurrection is not a one-time cosmic transaction, but the constant pattern of all growth and change.”

I pray that the Spirit of Jesus Christ finds you today behind the doors of coronavirus sequestration giving you the certain peace of a resurrection power that is yours in this life and in the life to come.

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Rev. William “Bill” Worley, PSE Conference Minister