



“Exult, heavenly powers!  
Exult, all creation around God’s throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Rejoice, O Earth in shining splendor, radiant in the  
brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered!  
Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!”  
(Easter Exultet Song)

Dear Sisters and Friends,

Once again, we arrive at this special time of Easter celebration.

These past days have been filled alternately with rain and thunder, sun and warmth. The first spring flowers have sprung up only to be blown down and then defiantly to push up yet again, now to stay. We have experienced the ups and downs of the liturgy of these last days that has taken us from the jubilant crowds on Palm Sunday and the intimate washing of the feet on Holy Thursday to betrayal, crucifixion and burial. Now is the time for rejoicing!

This year the differing calendars that are used throughout the world coincide in bringing together times that are sacred for many people. This week, Jews are celebrating Passover, the deliverance from bondage and slavery in Egypt to freedom, recalled in symbol and recitation in the Seder meal. Muslims are in the midst of the holiest month of the year, Ramadan, the month in which the Qur’an was revealed, observed with fasting, feasting and almsgiving. Though celebrating in different ways, we all are recalling the graciousness and generosity of God’s action and mercy that far surpasses our understanding.

Over the past years, questions about the meaning of suffering, death and dying have become ever more real throughout our society. The traumatic days of the initial Covid outbreak showed up the fragility of our health care system, most especially for the elderly and the vulnerable; the ongoing effects of long-term Covid and post-Covid trauma remain a lived reality for many people. The legalization and popular acceptance of medical-assistance-in-dying, indeed the expansion that is anticipated in the next months, has brought fundamental questions and values into focus in a new way. Now it is more important than ever to own and articulate a distinctive Christian vision that is rooted in the mysteries of suffering, death and new life that we celebrate in these Easter days.

May this Easter bring each of us renewed strength, hope and peace,

Eileen Schuller, osu