

Pastor's Ponderings - March & April 2023

"Let's just skip March." That thought came to me the other day as I was walking over from church to the parsonage on a steel gray afternoon with a "wintry mix" in the air. Everyone around here knows March is a rough month. We've had teases of spring and are ready to be done with winter. But we can have no illusion winter is done with us. You just have to wait it out. March feels like a fitting part of our Lenten fast—we are in the wilderness of deprivation, without warmth or sunshine. There will be warmth in April, we know, and maybe some sunshine, or at least the beginnings of leaves and green grass by Easter.

We can't really skip March, of course. But we also don't have to just wait it out. We can look forward to April and look for the depth and richness—the blessings—of our lives as they are, right here in March, right here in the midst of our gray lives. So, this is the March-April newsletter. We're lifting up Easter and springtime and even the coming summer, while knowing full well and accepting with grace that we are in March.

Lent is like that. It is a time of gray ashes and acknowledgement of sin. A time of intentional deprivation—some manner of fast, and some sort of penance. Jesus went into the wilderness to suffer hunger and temptation, and afterward suffered various forms of persecution during his public ministry. And yet, Easter is under it all. We enter Lent knowing there is resurrection at the end.

Our lives are like that. Things are sometimes depressingly gray. We face temptations in amidst various kinds of deprivation. We suffer afflictions of health and misunderstanding and distrust. But resurrection is under it all. Easter is coming. New life is waiting to be born and will be born in us and around us.

Thank God it is so.

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