

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....

It was an especially blessed Easter Sunday at Audubon Park Church. I want to thank all of you who helped create the conditions of beauty, joy and hospitality that God used to bless those who worshipped Him. The butterflies and flowers, vivid symbols of resurrection, blessed our eyes. The sounds of choir, organist, hymnody, and preaching blessed our ears. We worshipped with the words of the Psalmist in our hearts, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me. Bless His holy name!"

I believe the soul is a tunable instrument. The Christian soul is tuned each time it gathers with other souls to sing God's praise in worship. We are a spiritual people being formed by the Holy Spirit into the image of Christ. Each Sunday we enter the Lord's winepress to be crushed by the story of His cross-compassion until we mingle together with the blood of Christ. Like individual grains we are ground into the flour of oneness, no longer loners, but lovers of the divine and one another. By God's grace we become the sacrament of which we partake, partakers of the divine image. This happens each and every time we gather on the Lord's Day, the Day of Resurrection remembrance. But the miracle of soul molding is especially intense on the High Holy Days. For me, these are Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. I'm sure my Catholic and Orthodox friends would consider me a Protestant piker and remind me that there is a whole year's worth of holy days I could be celebrating, and I would agree. But Protestantism is Catholic and Orthodox Lite and that is how my soul had been formed. Sometimes less really is more. Christmas and Easter are the twin pillars of Protestant worship and, thanks be to God, my soul was blessed last Sunday. So many, mostly behind the scenes, helped to make that happen. I am grateful.

JUST A GOOD STORY:

A man walking through the forest saw a fox that has lost its legs, and wondered how it lived. Then he saw a tiger come up with game in its mouth. The tiger ate its fill and left the rest of the meat for the fox.

The next day God fed the fox by means of the same tiger. The man began to wonder at God's goodness and said to himself, "I too shall just rest in a corner with full trust in the Lord and he will provide me with all that I need."

He did this for many days but nothing happened, and he was almost at death's door when he heard a voice say, "O you who are in the path of error, open your eyes to the truth! Stop imitating the disabled fox and follow the example of the tiger."

See you in church, APUMC!

Pastor Carl