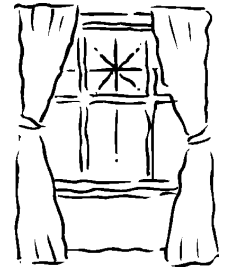


Looking Out My Window, April 15 2022



In her novel *The Living*, Annie Dillard describes this scene from a funeral:  
“Hugh stood with stiff Lulu and supple Bert at the graveside. The Nooksacks stood together with their preacher.

“Before the funeral, in mourning for his father, they had shrieked and pounded on boards...

“At last big-faced Norval Tawes read Scripture and prayed. ‘O Death, where is they sting?’ Norval Tawes called out, and his little black eyes glittered on Hugh.

“Hugh thought, ‘Just about everywhere, since you ask.’” \*

Even in the Easter season the preaching of resurrection brings the reality of death more clearly into focus. We all die; we experience the sting of death in thoughts of our own death as well as in the deaths of others.

Episcopal priest Robert Capon once wrote, “Jesus came to raise the dead. The only qualification for the gift of the Gospel is to be dead. You don’t have to be smart. You don’t have to be good. You don’t have to be wise. You don’t have to be wonderful. You don’t have to be anything...you just have to be dead. That’s it.” + From Easter weekend until Pentecost Sunday, we will be celebrating Christ’s resurrection in Easter season, while we deal with the sting of death. Capon’s words remind us that becoming real about our own death opens the possibility of resurrection.

We experience death and resurrection life in spiritual fashion, too. A relationship with God in Christ lifts us out of spiritual death and ushers us into a rich, full experience of God’s living presence. Our ongoing experience proves to be living more fully into the new life Christ brings. May we in this Easter season bring those dead, lifeless areas of our inner being to Christ and ask for the touch of his risen life.

We can execute the same reality check and utter the same prayer for the life of our church. Christ’s risen life can infuse Christ Church with God’s rich, living love and energy. Not that Christ’s life is not already present and active among us. Rather, awareness and trust can unleash that life more fully than we had visualized. Join me in discerning the areas of our church’s life lacking in life and vitality and seeking the release of Christ’s risen life.

God’s peace,

*David*

David W. Perkins, Interim Rector

\*Annie Dillard, *The Living*, (New York: Harper, 1993), pp. 108-109

+Cited by William Willimon in a sermon at Duke University Chapel, "Get Up," 6/29/1997.