

Easter Sunday, we get dressed up in our new dresses and ties (or old ones that still look nice), we throw on our fancy shoes, make sure our hair is in place. Our kids hunt for eggs that we randomly hide (or toss) onto the lawn. Our kids are finally given the Cadbury creme eggs and Reese's eggs we've secretly been wanting to eat ourselves. And we make our way to church where someone from the front will say, "He is risen!" And we reply back, "He is risen, indeed!" We hear the story of Mary running from the tomb and being the first person to ever preach the resurrection. It's an important story to our heritage.

During last Sunday's children's sermon, when I asked the kids, Why is Jesus special? What was different about Jesus?...Oliver answered, "Because he's invisible." We laughed, like we do with a lot of the kids unforeseen answers. But from the moment he said it, it's been stuck in my head. And as I've gone throughout my week, I've seen the invisible Jesus all around me. And just as he looked different, almost unrecognizable on that resurrection morning, he still doesn't always look as we'd expect today. That morning they were looking for Jesus' same physical body, yet it was changed. Today, we don't know what physical body to look for, but we do know when Jesus

is present. This week I saw women teaching other women at our English Language Learners class. This week I saw youth sponsors teach our elementary age children as well as our middle and high school groups. This week I saw people sweating while they were working at the Mobile Food Pantry to ensure others have basics such as food. This week I saw a member go over to another member's house and fix their sliding door. This week I saw many of you dropping off candy for our children to find inside their pastel colored eggs. This week I saw one of you tirelessly work on the new building renovation. This week I saw multiple people volunteer to pick-up our new piano. This week I saw the invisible Jesus. Not in the same physical form one would expect. Not always in the manner you'd expect to find him. But definitely present.

It's ironic on this resurrection Sunday we're literally meeting in a funeral home. But the reminder of death not being too far away is actually quite appropriate for Easter. For Holy Week is a roller coaster of emotions. Starting with a parade, humbled to wash our feet, providing us room at the table, a new covenant being given, betrayal and death. And what follows

death? Waiting. I know, it's only three days. Only three days. But those three days can be long.

Last Sunday Travis and I left from worshiping with you and when we returned home, we ripped up our bedroom carpet. It was old, it was stained, it was worn. Below the carpet was a plain unfinished subfloor. Older than the carpet. Stained like the carpet. We sanded it down. Put wood stain on it to provide a finished look. And then sealed it. Only, when you put down three layers of polyurethane, you have to wait 72 hours, 3 full days, before it becomes fully solid and you can put furniture on it. Three full days? We've worked so hard. It's so pretty. We're ready to move back in. We've got to wait three full days after putting in all that work into it before we can live in the space we've worked on?

Jesus worked so hard teaching us how to live, for what I've received, I passed onto you. Jesus passed onto us a love the world had never seen. Jesus turned the tables over, literally. Jesus made the priests and the sinners both shake their heads at him. He turned the world upside down in the way he loved and respected people. I'm convinced no other acts would

be remembered or celebrated for as long as his. Loving people isn't always easy. Immediately responding with kind words isn't always easy. Not even showing judgement in our physical bodily reactions, isn't always easy. But sometimes Jesus doesn't look the way we expect Jesus to look.

We've waited our three days. For on the third day, he rose from the grave. He defeated death. He triumphed in victory. And one of his greatest feats of victory is one that happens still today. That the crazy love that turned the world upside-down is still entering the world time and time again and is seen. Jesus is still alive today, living and working through us. And yes, it may seem he's invisible to some, but he remains very much alive in very visible ways.

On this resurrection Sunday, there is new life coming up all around us. It's no wonder Earth Day is set for this time of year. A time when the birth of new life surprises us and fills us with a happiness we didn't even know was within us, filling us. Today is what made Friday "good". Today is what made that last supper and new commandment make sense. Today is what that parade at the beginning of the week was all about. For if Jesus never rose

and never showed us life eternal, we wouldn't be here. We'd be other places, perhaps already at brunch, but we wouldn't be here as a faith community or a family today. And together, beautiful people, is a beautiful place to be. He is risen! He is risen, indeed!