Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

I don't know about you, but it sure felt a lot different to me without all of the beautiful liturgy of Holy Week; without the choir, guest musicians, and Karla; without sitting in the pew with my St. Christopher's family; without the release of the Alleluias . . . they're still stuck in a box under the altar, in a locked building. (I checked on them yesterday – they're waiting patiently for us to come back!)

During the last month, while my family is doing their best to stay home unless it is absolutely necessary to go out, I find myself cycling through two viewpoints: accepting this new reality and making the best of it; and mourning the events, the people, and the things that I am not able to do and see. Easter is a big one. While we find ways to honor and recognize the events of Holy Week in our homes, it's just not the same. But I am reminded that the church is not just 2300 Hamline Avenue. The church is us – you and me, in our own spaces, doing what we can to feel the Holy Spirit inside of us, and to let it shine through us.

And God is EVERYWHERE – just take a moment to see. God is in our homes as some of us learn to live in very close quarters with our loved ones. God is in our actions as we reach out by phone, text, mail, and video chat to those who are isolated, or those whom we miss. God is with us in prayer as we share our deepest thoughts, needs, concerns and thanksgivings. God is EVERYWHERE.

Each year I encourage our children to look for signs of God all around them, especially during the 50 days of Easter (remember, it's a season, not a day). Try to notice and be present in the moment. When we notice our breath, or the sounds around us, or the activities in which we are engaged, we can become more aware of God's presence. **Click here** for a suggested list of 50 things to notice – one for each of the 50 days of Easter. As you watch for the signs of God around you, don't forget to look inside yourself and to be where others are seeing God.

Marion Hunner 05/15/20