



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Risen Lord:

We are an Easter people. We are an Easter people filled with life and hope because Jesus said “Yes,” to God. He completed the work He was sent to accomplish for all people. On Easter morning he rose from the grave and defeated the power of sin, death and evil. On Easter morning, Jesus presented all people with an incredible gift, the gift of new life in him.

Because Jesus said, “Yes,” salvation is ours. All the power of heaven is ours. It is called grace. By grace we are saved and by grace we are given the power of the Holy Spirit, the presence of the living God living in us. All we have to do is say “Yes,” to God.

When we receive a gift, it is freely given, but there IS a responsibility that comes with it. For example, when we receive a gift such as flowers, we must place them in water and change the water to keep them fresh. The gift of a coffee maker comes with a responsibility to use and care for it. The gift of a car requires a great deal of attention to keep in good working order. The larger the gift, the greater the responsibility comes with it—.

Grace is a great gift freely given to us by God and like all gifts, grace comes with a matching responsibility. Grace is ours, not for us to keep to ourselves, but to share. Friends, family, and neighbors are a good place to start, but our responsibility does not end there. We are called to share the message of God’s grace, God’s love, and the power of eternal life with others, with ALL people—even those we consider our enemy.

Our care for others, our sharing of our prayers, our time our resources and our faith stories is our way of caring for the gift of grace God has given us. In so doing, the gift within us continues to grow as our faith matures and becomes strong. The more we share the stronger our faith becomes! The more we share, the more we receive, the more we receive, the more we can share! Grace truly is the gift that keeps on giving.

In spite of our circumstances, life—an abundant life is ours when we say “Yes” to God. This is the gift of Easter: God’s love, God’s grace, God’s power present in our lives. As we share the grace we have received, that gift grows within us, multiplying, spreading and filling us and ALL people with its joy!

We are an Easter People! We serve a Risen Lord! Praise be To God!

*Pastor Marianne*