

## May Newsletter Reflections

This entire month of May we will continue to mark the time between the resurrection and the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Because we proclaim ourselves Easter people, this is a good time to reflect on what that means about the ways we live and interact with the world—specifically those people we encounter and those “institutions” or social interactions we support and/or participate in. I am by nature a reader, not a watcher of video, but recently ran across quotes from two of my favorite authors whose works have been made into movies. C.S. Lewis who wrote the well known children’s books called the *Chronicles of Narnia* was an atheist for many years. Although born into a Protestant family, he became disillusioned with Christianity as a youth. After obtaining a doctorate in philosophy he joined a group of fellow colleagues at Oxford. It was through conversations with them that he returned to the Christian faith. Thereafter he authored many rich apologist texts using logic and philosophy to defend the Christian faith. *The Chronicles of Narnia* depict a battle waged between good and evil with a strong Christ-like figure named Aslan whose self-sacrifice provides the key to winning the battle against evil. A quote from Lewis which appeared in *Life* magazine states: “I didn’t go to religion to make me “happy”. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.” As I reflect on my status as a Christian, an Easter person, does my faith make me uncomfortable with conditions found in the world around me? I was once told that a pastor’s job was to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Perhaps we are all called to be uncomfortable with the world as it is. Living into the call of Christ to cross boundaries and love even enemies fits well with Lewis’ observation that Christianity’s tenets, if taken seriously, are not those likely to make one comfortable. Everything I see and hear in the media leads me to believe that many Easter people are not uncomfortable with the broken state of this world. We have accepted the *status quo* or have felt unqualified to change it. Another colleague of Lewis at Oxford was JR Tolkien who wrote another epic trilogy depicting the battle between good and evil titled “*The Fellowship of the Rings*”. A major character in that work was Gandalf, the gray wizard. A quote from Gandalf reads: “Some believe it is only GREAT POWER that can hold evil in check. But that is not what I have found. I have found that it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love.” If that is true, then we have within our power the key to participate in the transformation of this broken world into a place where the reign of God can break in. As Easter people we need to open our eyes and hearts to the movement of the Holy Spirit and follow where the Spirit leads us so that we can be known as Christians by the way that we live and care for those who share this world with us.

Pastor Libby

