

SERMON FOR APRIL 16, 2017

Our house did not go in for the Easter egg hunt. An egg hunt is most fun when there is a bunch of searchers, and Aaron, my son, is a one and only. (Sometimes we can get what we can handle.) Rather than hide eggs, the Easter deliverer of sweet and chocolaty goodies left a basket of treats in the vicinity of our house.

Aaron would find the basket and carry it in like it was the world's greatest treasure. He would put the basket on the coffee table and open it up. One by one, the treats would be lined up around the table, and carefully assessed against expectation, for, you see, the Easter Bunny had a reputation for including rolling stock, Lego, and other favourites. And always, there was in the basket, a little Easter Bunny. We have quite a collection and I am waiting for the day when Aaron has his own place and takes his rabbits with him.

What I want you to see is an Easter basket holding all the eggs. At our house, all the eggs were in one basket. This is contrary to popular wisdom. We are cautioned not to put all our eggs in one basket. I have never heard anyone urge others to do so.

If we invest our savings, our financial advisor chooses a variety of places to put our money. The variety of places reduces our risk. If we are looking for a new job, we put our many applications to many prospective employers. We don't choose just one job opportunity and put all our eggs in one basket.

When we parent or grandparent our children, we encourage them to try a variety of life experiences, a variety of sports and activities, a variety of adventures because we know this wide experience builds confidence and self-esteem and broadens horizons.

Politicians are expert at not putting all their eggs in one basket because they represent a variety of people and re-election depends on the variety's being satisfied enough to warrant a vote. You get the picture. There are few life situations where putting everything we have in one place is a winning strategy.

Then along comes Easter and Easter dares us to put all our eggs in one basket. Easter dares us not to hedge our bets. The Easter invitation is to gather up courageously all our hope and desire, all our dreams for a peaceful world, all our pain and sorrow, all our fear for ourselves and others, all our deep concern for our planet and to bring our passion and our pain to the place that welcomes it without question. I am talking about the place of radical change, of resurrection.

We know that place. It is the setting of every Easter narrative, the grave where Jesus was buried. That place is the scene of our becoming. It is the place where love proves stronger than death. It is the set for the drama of endings that begin again. It is the place where the mystery shows itself and asks us to hope, to trust, and to believe.

All who we are, all that we are facing, all that troubles us about ourselves and our world belong in the Easter morning location. That is where we learn that

love abides, no matter what we have chosen, no matter what we have done. That's where we learn that even when we are in the valley of the shadow, our spirits can stay strong.

There is one place where we can bring ourselves, exactly as we are. There is only one place for our passion for a better world. And if we are smart and choose to hope, we'll put all our eggs in one Easter basket.