

Saturday, April 11—Holy Saturday

Scripture reading: Romans 6:3-11

Anticipation was in the air as I walked down the hallway at Ball Elementary in Chatham this week. The first grade classes had been caring for eggs in incubators, gently turning each egg multiple times a day. Children and teachers anxiously waited for cracks to appear in the eggs, an indication of the event soon to come. Garrett's former first grade teacher stopped me in the hall and extended an invitation to her classroom: "You've got to come see the chick that's started to hatch...how exciting!"

I couldn't resist the chance to see a new chick, so before leaving school, I did find my way to the room. Sure enough, a tiny chick was emerging from inside one of the eggs, slowly breaking free from the shell that had contained it. The whole process was nothing short of a miracle.

This image of new life is more powerful than any other image springtime displays. Grass greens and grows, trees sprout leaves seemingly overnight, flowers spring forth from bulbs in the ground, and baby animals adjust to their new surroundings. Newness of life is ours too, even in the face of death and despair, because of God's love for us.

Today, this day after Good Friday, quite possibly leads some to question God's love. Jesus' crucifixion, still vivid in our minds, hangs us in the grip of death. Would a God of love allow God's very own Son to die such a brutal death? How in the world could love play a part?

The beauty of this story is that love does play a part. In fact, it does more than just play a part; it takes the leading role! God loved us SO MUCH that God sent Jesus, God's own Son, to pay the price for our sins, once for all. Our sins are forgiven because Jesus died on the cross for us. Sin no longer has a hold; we are free from that which contained us! We awake each day knowing that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and gave him new life. We awake knowing, in baptism, we live with Jesus in this same newness of life today, tomorrow, forever. For that, as we reflect on the sadness of yesterday and look ahead with joy to tomorrow, we can say with anticipation, thanks be to God for the gift of new life!

Prayer: You, O Lord, are the source of all life. Thank you for bringing us once again through the valley of the shadow of death into life eternal through your Son Jesus Christ. In his name we pray, Amen

Written by Stacey Duncan