

Easter Sunday

April 12, 2020

Courage as a Gift from God

by The Rev. Dr. Scott Stoner

But now the power of Easter has burst upon us with the resurrection of Christ. Now we find in ourselves a strength which is not our own, and which is freely given to us whenever we need it.

—Thomas Merton

Today we proclaim, “Christ is Risen!” With this we are declaring that the power of death had no hold over Jesus, and that his resurrection means that the power of death has no hold over us, either.

It takes courage to believe in the truth and the power of resurrection. It takes even more courage to practice resurrection in the daily choices we make in our lives.

Throughout this devotional, we have reflected on how the choice to practice courage is almost always a choice that is made in the presence of some kind of fear. When fear is not present, we rarely talk about a choice as being courageous.

We have learned that the support of a loving community is vital in helping us to practice courage. I am grateful for the community that we have been able to form in and through this resource. And I am especially thankful for the community of the guest writers who have inspired and encouraged us with their insights on what it means to practice courage as a person of faith. Thank you to: Dominic Barrington, Teddy Brooks, Mariann Budde, Anna Courie, Jenifer Gamber, Heidi Haverkamp, Jan Kwiatkowski, and Sam Rodman.

On this Easter Sunday as we conclude our journey through Lent, we recognize the real source of our strength, the source that makes it possible for us to practice courage in the face of fear, even the fear of death. That strength, as Thomas Merton says in the quote above, is “a strength which

