

¡Saludos en el nombre de Jesucristo!

My friends, I hope this email finds all of you experiencing a meaningful and reflective Holy Week as together we contemplate our Lord's passion on the cross and look forward to the promise of the empty tomb. I also want to thank those of you who joined me last night for a Passover Seder in the fellowship hall. I especially want to thank those who brought food and helped to clean up afterwards. The seder went late into the evening. In fact, your pastor didn't get home until after 10. But it was well worth every minute, and I would have been perfectly happy if the seder had continued for many more hours. If you were there, I hope you had the same experience.

My good friend David Powers, who was visiting me this week, led last night's Passover Seder. Dave is not a rabbi, but Judaism has always been a part of Dave's life, and he is always happy to teach others about his faith traditions. Dave and I have been friends for almost thirty years, and while we have never shared the same faith, we have enjoyed many conversations about religion. To me, having a friend with a different faith tradition is one of the greatest experiences in life, because it can teach you so much about your own faith. You can read books about other faiths and take classes in comparative religion, but in my opinion, nothing will teach you more about your own faith than sitting down with someone who genuinely believes differently from you and having a serious conversation about those beliefs. Unfortunately, there are millions of Christians who discourage such dialogue because they believe talking to non-Christians can only serve to weaken your faith. But my experience with Dave has taught me to feel sorry for such people. I am so grateful to have grown up believing that dialogue only strengthens your faith. It doesn't weaken it.

Please remember that this Sunday there will be no 8:30am service. Instead, we will be having a sunrise service at 6:30 am in the Memorial Garden. I will be reading Matthew 28: 1-10 in that service, and my sermon is titled "Where We Find Him". For the 10:30 am service, the scripture readings will be Jeremiah 31: 1-6 and John 20: 1-18. My sermon is titled "Where to Find Him". I look forward to joining you this Easter Sunday either in person or over Zoom.

Blessings,

Pastor Rich