



*"I am the resurrection,
and the life:
he that believeth in me,
though he were dead,
yet shall he live"*

John 11:25

I came that you might have life, and have life abundantly. ~ Jesus, in the Gospel according to John

The Glory of God is the human being who is fully alive. ~ Irenaeus, 2nd Century Bishop

Holy Week, 2011

Dear Broadway,

Our images for this year's Lenten theme, "Water to our Souls," have been those of new life: Baptism; "born from above;" healing; life conquering death. As we move from Lent into the holiest week of our faith story, we again are confronted with how deeply suffering is felt – and how God's power can overcome it.

Many people who talk with us about Broadway also speak about power – the power they've experienced in our identity as a community of faith that is committed to justice. We believe that our commitments to the radically inclusive love of God are a way to live "abundantly" and to be "fully alive." When we use our power for good, when we empower others, and when we choose to use our influence in ways that help to liberate and give life to others, we believe we are carrying out that justice-love.

One of the ways Broadway has historically done that is through partner organizations. As a member congregation of Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC), we support the mission to "develop leaders, foster diversity, and act together for justice" in tangible ways. We are currently working with LAC to urge the Chicago Police to develop a policy of respect for interaction with persons who identify as transgender or who are gender fluid.

We are also a member congregation of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, an organization committed to "celebrating God's love for ALL people." Through CCWC, we participate in the annual PRIDE Month witness (including the parade as well as other events), help to staff the Market Days booth for a witness in Lakeview, and work collaboratively and ecumenically on issues and ministry.

Our identity as a Reconciling Congregation connects us to Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), the organization committed to changing our United Methodist denomination's institutional bigotry against persons who identify as GLBTQ. Our efforts include support of legislation for the Northern Illinois Conference Annual Conference as well as the Global General Conference (the next one in 2012), where we continue to pray, speak, act, and hope for change.

One of the practical ways we can support our member organization status in these three vital witnesses for justice – and a way we can use our power to make change – is to contribute dues to these social action ministries. LAC, CCWC, and RMN all depend on the support of individuals, member organizations, and grant support to keep alive the vision of progressive movements. For this year's special Easter offering, we are dedicating our gifts to that purpose, which is to say: we are dedicating ourselves again to justice.

These powerful acts of hope and justice are what the message of Easter is all about. We can't do this important work without your support. We invite you to make a special contribution towards Broadway's Easter offering so that our continued support of justice for all can be realized. Please use an Easter envelope to make your gift, or if you prefer, you can make your gift online at any time (for a one-time gift or for your regular weekly donation) at www.broadwaychurchchicago.org.

Thanks so much for being part of this ministry!

In solidarity,

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr and Rev. Vernice Thorn