



April 11, 2019

Dear Ones in Christ,

Let me begin by stating that I know we are a Resurrection people. We may have put away the *Alleluias* during Lent, but the lily orders have been placed and the white paraments prepared. We know how to do Easter. We are a Resurrection people!

Worship leadership struggles each year with trying to make the connection between Good Friday and Easter. Some of our churches will have both Palms and Passion this coming Sunday to bridge the gap. We will hope that our members come and break bread on Thursday and hear the Last Words on Friday. We know that without the gut-wrenching experience of the cross, the empty tomb loses some of its emotional impact... and yet, in the end, we are a Resurrection people.

But I wonder... are we not also a Good Friday people?

As I move through the Presbytery, I often hear the word “sustainable”. I understand its intent, and certainly believe that sustainability should be a factor in how we make our decisions, but I worry that it has become a greater factor than the Great Commission.

I was a guest at the PCUSA polity class at Wesley Seminary a few weeks ago, and the Rev. Dr. David Ensign reminded me of these words, found in the Foundations section of our Book of Order:

***“The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.”***

Are we not also a Good Friday people?

In Christ,

Karen