



# The United Church of Canada L'Église Unie du Canada



First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council  
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council  
Regional Council 15

## An Easter Message

***“And shall our hopes, like you,  
Arise from where they ceased to be:  
And shall the spirit that was crushed  
be transformed and set free!”*** (Stages on the Way)

On this Holy Saturday, there are many images swirling around my house. My daughter decided this was a good day to learn to make bread. The actions of waiting for the yeast to activate, mixing the flour, kneading the dough and waiting for it to rise, all takes time and patience.

Remembering the mothers, fathers, and the grandmothers and the grandfathers who passed down their skills to the next generation. I was telling her that my grandmother would put butter on the top of the dough and then make the sign of the cross on the dough. She asked me why she did that and I didn't have an answer for her only that I thought it might be for the blessings of the bread that was to come at the end of the process and that perhaps it was because the act of making bread was for some a spiritual practice. So today with the new technology of time lapse, the next generation is taking part in the spiritual act of making bread.

### Bread Rising time-lapse



Today is a day of waiting, of being tender with each other and with ourselves in the grief that has set into our souls with the events of Good Friday. It is also a day of prayer for the resurrection and transformation of our Saviour, our community, our world and ourselves. A time to wait and a time to pray.

In our Sunday school, we often use a butterfly as the symbol for Easter resurrection and transformation. I was reading a book of quotes “Brave Enough” by Cheryl Strayed, and she said:

“I used to see a butterfly in my mind’s eye every time I heard the word transformation but life has schooled me. Transformation isn’t a butterfly. It’s the thing before you get to be the butterfly. It’s huddling in the cocoon and then the pushing your way out. It’s the messy work of making sense of your fortunes and misfortunes, desires and doubts, hang-ups and sorrows, actions and accidents, mistakes and successes, so you can go on and become the person you must next become.”

I know this will be a different Easter for all of us. But even in our isolation, in our cocoon, we await the transformation that comes with Resurrection joy!

May you have a blessed Easter and may God's transforming love be always yours!

*Rev. Faith March-MacCuish*

Executive Minister

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