



March 17, 2018

Friends,

Whenever I have the opportunity, I love to collect bits of sea glass. Sea glass begins as bottles and glass that is tossed from boats or piers. It is broken and then tumbled smooth by the waves, sand and currents. Each piece is uniquely shaped, and all sharp edges are worn away.

It sparkles in the sun and can be shades of brown, green, turquoise to white, and rare bits of red, yellow and blue. When I get home with the glass, I admire its beauty, and put it with all the rest in a large punch bowl. And there it rests because I don't know what else to do with it. Forty years of sea glass.

Last week my friend Pat came to visit. She said she had been creating pictures and wind chimes with bits of sea glass. She even showed me photos of her art. But Pat said the work is slow and expensive because she must buy the glass. So, I happily gave her my collection. I felt surprisingly free. And now my old glass has a new home with somebody who knows just exactly what to do with each piece.

You may well wonder why I am telling you all this. Well, the glass got me to thinking. Worship is a celebration of what God has done for us. We worship because God somehow created the world and all who live in it. God loves us to no end.

During Lent we contemplate our sins and our need for God's forgiveness. We worship because we believe that God forgives our sins. The sharp edges of our brokenness are smoothed and healed. We are beautifully pieced back together by the mercy and grace of God shown to us in

the love of Jesus. Lent is both a time of repentance and an opportunity to remember that we are called into relationship with God, even when it seems to us to be impossible.

At Christmas, the halleluiahs of the angels proclaimed the birth of Jesus. On Easter, our own halleluiahs proclaim the resurrection of Jesus. To sing halleluiahs is to put an exclamation mark on our worship because we are forgiven and loved for ever by God. How can we keep from singing?

Alleluia!

Jesus is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

May this declaration resound in our lives and be the truth of which we speak.

Happy Easter to you.

*Joan*

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