Dear Friends,

In my *Church at Worship* class in seminary, taught by the legendary Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins, I remember learning how worship services began on Sundays as a weekly reminder of the resurrection. They were almost “mini Easter Sundays” each week to remind the worshipping community of the way that we can again and again remember and hold tightly the resurrection of Jesus.

In the gospel of Mark, the women arrive at the tomb at sunrise and are shocked by finding the tomb empty and leave in fear and terror. Mark’s resurrection story is less triumphant than the other gospel testimonies, but it reminds us that Easter comes to us, again and again, even if we don’t know what to make of God’s resurrection ways. Again and again, the sun rises. And some days, that is enough.

I don’t know about you, but after the year we have had, I need the reminder of the resurrection; again and again. I need the reminder that the sun rises; again and again. I know when we gather for worship each Sunday at [insert church name], I’m reminded of the hope of the resurrection again and again as I see all of you giving of your time, talent, and treasure to support our mission and ministry.

Enclosed in this letter is an Easter Offering Envelope. This last year has been financially difficult for the church, and again and again, we give God thanks for your support of our mission and ministry. Please consider making a special offering above and beyond your yearly pledge this Easter to help us continue to spread the resurrection hope to our community. You can return your offering using the self-addressed stamped envelope or you can donate online using our online giving site: [insert link, i.e. [bit.ly/GiveToMUMC](http://bit.ly/GiveToMUMC)].

Again and again, we are invited in to the story of the Resurrection. May we hold onto the joy, hope, and love we experience on Easter through the coming year.

In Christ’s Redeeming Love,

Pastor