



For further thoughts on the subject read the following excerpts adapted from a Homily delivered by the Rev. Lilia Cuervo, titled "*What is the place of Easter in our liberal religion?*"

According to the Gospels, this is what took place during Easter week. First came Jesus' followers' excitement as he triumphantly Entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday amid Hosannas and Alleluias. Then, on Good Friday the tragedy of his betrayal by Judas, his triple denial by Peter, and the abandonment by the disciples at the time when Jesus needed their company as he in agony, prayed to his father in the garden of Gethsemane. The story ends with Jesus emerging triumphant from his sealed tomb on Easter Sunday.

Unitarian Universalists as a whole do not believe in miracles or physical resurrections. Yet, that spiritual apprehension of the truth that Jesus rose from his death in the minds and hearts of his disciples and of those who loved him, can be a powerful incentive to overcome sadness and loneliness, and to gain the courage to live full lives, despite the tragedies of our own losses through death or abandonment. The resurrection story can help us by reminding us that Jesus is not so much admired even today, by his resurrection, but by the memory of the way he lived his life, by his teachings, and by his love for others. In a similar manner, we can keep alive in our minds and hearts, those whose death we mourn. The memories of how they lived their lives, and their teachings, can brighten our days. There are other instances in everyday life that could be considered miracles if not of resurrection, of life renewal: When beautiful flowers wither and die, only to be replaced by others, seemingly more fresh and beautiful. When wild animals and plants in mountains and forests are destroyed by raging fires, only to be replaced by new tender shoots and more abundant life.

More complex and awesome perhaps are the renewals we witness in our own bodies. The ever changing and replacing of cells in our brain, circulatory, digestive, sensing, respiratory and some other systems that conform our bodies and make life possible for us, are in themselves miracles of resurrection. And what can we say about the resurrections of our minds and souls? Miracles, miracles indeed! When our dreams and hopes are dying, when we are sad, the understanding words and/or the touch of a friendly hand can help us to resurrect. When we are discouraged, lonely, or just really tired and our projects and chores seem like big burdens, we can be revived, our energy can be restored through the care and companionship of true friends.