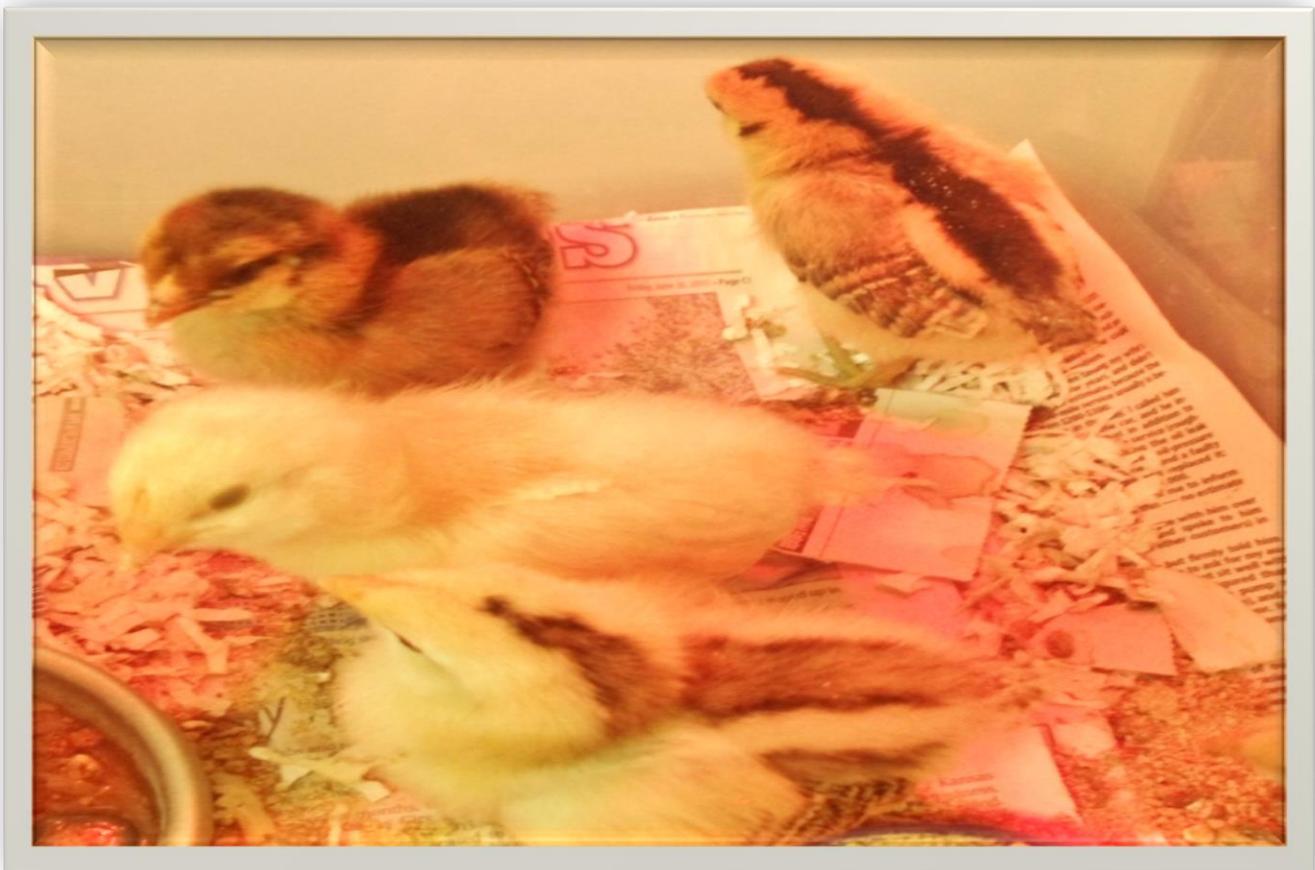


Dear Children,

HAPPY EASTER!!!!

Now we can talk about life and how amazing it is! Already you must be seeing signs of Spring popping up all over. Flower bulbs blooming as tulips and daffodils, the trees beginning to have buds on their branches, and little chicks hatching out of eggs are all things in nature that we use to describe life beginning again at Easter.



So much of nature seems to go quiet in the winter, but we know it is really just resting, waiting for the cold and ice to go away, so that it can be warm enough to grow again. It all looks very beautiful as everything blooms with new life! For chicks hatching out of eggs, leaving an empty shell, sometimes people will say that

this is like Jesus breaking out of the tomb. (Back in the day when Jesus lived, people were buried low to the ground in a cave with a stone rolled in front of it. That was called a tomb.) It all is to help us understand and believe the amazing story that Jesus, who was dead, now lives again. Jesus could do this because he was God. For his friends and people who knew Jesus before he died, they didn't really understand that he was God until he rose from death.

That is why Christians celebrate Easter! This last, perfect miracle tells us that Jesus is truly God. Even though we can't be in church today, I still like knowing that I am celebrating Easter with you, and believing in this miracle of the life of Jesus with you.



The Bible story of the first Easter is also in every Gospel. It is in **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**. Each telling of the story is a little different.

Matthew's story is Matthew 28:1-10. His story and all of the others has two women, both named Mary, going to the tomb early one morning after Jesus had died. It also has an earthquake and a bright angel. Will you read that story sometime this week?

Mark's story is Mark 16:1-8. This story is very short. The women are in it, but can you see that the story is different from the one Matthew tells? It tells us a lot about Jesus being alive and it says that the people were afraid of this surprising miracle. That is something to talk about with your family. What do they think?

Luke's story is Luke 24:1-12. This story is like the others, and it has more to it as the women find the tomb already open, and they wonder what to do. Here many people don't believe the miracle, but some do. Do you ever have trouble with people believing what you say?

John's story is John 20:1-18. John's story is the most different of all. In this one, Mary actually sees Jesus! That would be very interesting, and amazing too!

There is a lot to think about in these stories of the miracle of Easter. Remember that these stories have been talked about for more than 2,000 years! It is a pretty special story, isn't it? It's called the **Resurrection of Jesus** because he rose from death.

I hope you will spend some time learning about each of these stories. **God bless you. Happy Easter !!!!** *Pastor Celeste*