Bearing Fruit – April 4, 2021

**The Easter Parade**

You have probably heard of the musical “Easter Parade” starring Fred Astaire and Judy Garland. Irving Berlin wrote the song “Easter Parade” in 1933 which was the basis for the film. The “Easter Parade” was a New York “experience” from the 19th century into the mid-20th century. Other large cities had it as well. After Easter worship people would parade in the center of the street in their Easter clothes. Generally this parade was from wealthy churches while the poor would stand on the sidewalks and watch. This doesn’t exactly reflect the values of Christ’s church - the poor watching while the rich parade. However, new clothes were part of the early churches’ practice at Easter because Easter was also a time of baptism. Disciples would put off the old and put on Christ, the new. This is a whole different way of looking at new clothes at Easter.

There is nothing wrong with new clothes at Easter. In fact, we have new candles on the Lord’s Table and a new Christ candle. It is helpful to remember that in Christ we are new creations. We just need to think further about what it means to be a new creation and not just stop with clothing.

This year we are gathering not only virtually we are also regathering in person. Our worship is a hybrid. We also hosted a socially-distant outside Easter Saturday Party. Our congregation has met the challenge with great love and creativity. This past week we have had our own kind of Easter Parade. There has been a parade of people through the building from choir members recording and singing their anthem to the Worship Arts Team making our sanctuary and the Lord’s Table a thing of beauty. There were also the creative energies of the Easter Saturday task force, as well as gardeners working in our gardens. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Easter Parade welcoming our community and our fellowship to this very special Easter service. Thank you for helping us bear the fruit of God’s love.