

Notes:

Sermon Text

Subject

Spiritual "To Do List"
(things God has shown me today)

Enter to Worship.
Before worship speak to God. During worship let God speak to you.
After worship speak to one another.
Depart to Serve.

The holy season of Easter - the great 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday - calls us to live as "Easter people." By contrast, sometimes we settle for just being "church people." There is really quite a difference between those two lifestyles.

- Easter people base their faith on the sacrifice of the Cross and the victory of Easter. Church people base their faith on their own busy work in the church.
- Easter people trust in Christ; church people try to earn this salvation by being good people.
- Easter people know that the church is the Body of Christ; church people believe the church is just another institution.
- Easter people worship out of a sense of joy and give their offerings out of a sense of gratitude to God. Church people too often attend worship and give to the church ... out of a sense of obligation. And most importantly,
- Easter people approach their own death or the death of a loved one anticipating the promise of Resurrection. Church people fear death and live life with a sense of dread.

Do you [see] the difference? Church people are good people, hard working people, often the backbone of their community, respectable and faithful. Easter people are church people who have finally discovered what the Christian faith is all about.

It's sad when some people live their whole life as what John Wesley... called "Almost Christians." Wesley urged the church people of his day to discover what he had finally discovered in the heart-warming experience we call his Aldersgate Experience... to know God, to find joy in his faith and to have an assurance of God's grace.

—Bishop Michael J. Coyner
<http://inumc.org/news/detail/894>

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