

**A. Blessed, happy Easter!**

**B. There was a noted German philosopher – Frederick Nietzsche (1844-1900) who once said this about the Christians he had known: “They do not seem to have the look of a redeemed people.” A haunting, challenging remark.**

**C. We are an Easter people – we are redeemed through the person of Jesus and his redemptive work of reconciling all creation back to the Father. If we have been redeemed / if we are being redeemed / if we are an Easter people – what should we look like? / how should we sound? / what kind of activity are we to be engaged in?**

**D. What do redeemed people look like ... probably, the major characteristic would be Joy**

- heaven knows that there is much to be sad about: violence in the world, unemployment, illness of loved ones, moral failure, injustices . . .
- there is enough here to make us look like a depressed people – morose, discouraged, even despairing ... I once knew a depressed dog - BASSET HOUND ... SMOKEY ... sad, sad, sad ... I once whispered to him ... hey, Smokey, look redeemed.
- so wherein lies the joy of a redeemed people? It is the awareness, the abiding awareness that we are loved ... we are forgiven ... we are gifted
- Holy Thursday we were reminded of God’s love: this is my body / blood given for you ... God so loved the world that he gave his only son.
- A redeemed people is a loved people ... God delights in us as a parent delights in his or her child

**E. What does a redeemed people, an Easter people sound like?**

- like Simon & Garfunkel: “Sounds of Silence” ... nothing to say / no good news ... OR like the Quakers: “How can I keep from singing?”
- CALM: “I have a pearl inside of me the size of which you won’t believe!” Cannot calm up ... cannot keep from singing
- Good news: sin and death have been conquered ...
- Good news: Jesus is here: in baptism, confirmation, in scripture, in community
- Good news: the tomb is empty ... Jesus lives / Our song: Alleluia

**F. What does a redeemed community, an Easter community do?**

- we do what the Amish people did back in Oct., 2006 / forgiveness in the face of violence / they acted redeemed.
- we do the works of justice and deeds of charity
- we feed, heal, console, instruct, exhort, encourage
- we build the Kingdom of truth, freedom, justice, charity
- we embrace our call to be agents of God’s life, love, light

**G. Nietzsche: the Christians I’ve know do not have the look of a redeemed people. Let’s give Mr. Nietzsche another portrait of Christianity.**

**“Lord Jesus. light shining in the darkness, you lead your people into life, and give our mortal nature the gift of love.” (Divine Office)**