

The Hidden Promise of Easter!

As the air begins to warm over Perdido Bay and our Lillian gardens burst into color, it is impossible to ignore the persistent rhythm of renewal. Here in our community, nature speaks a language of hope, and this Easter, I find myself drawn to one of God's most delicate teachers: the butterfly. There is a profound mystery in the cocoon. To an outside observer, it looks like an ending, a quiet, motionless tomb. Yet, within that shell, a miraculous transformation is taking place. The caterpillar doesn't just grow wings; it is entirely reimagined.

This is the heart of the Easter story. When the stone was rolled away from the garden tomb, it wasn't just a return to life; it was a victory over the "cocoon" of death itself. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ assures us that what looks like a final stop is often just a holy pause before a glorious beginning.

One of my favorite hymns, *The Hymn of Promise*, captures this seasonal shift perfectly. Its lyrics remind us: "*In the bulb, there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be, Unrevealed until its season, Something God alone can see.*"

For many of us in Lillian, the past year may have felt like a long winter or a restrictive cocoon. We face grief, health struggles, or the quiet anxieties of a changing world. But Easter invites us to look past the shell. It reminds us that "unrevealed until its season is the flower that is to be."

The last verse of this beautiful hymn continues with its message of Eternal Hope: "*In our end is our beginning; In our time, infinity; In our doubt, there is believing; In our life, eternity; In our death, a resurrection; At the last, a victory! Unrevealed until its season; Something God alone can see!*"

As we gather this Easter to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, whether at the sunrise service by the water or within the walls of a sanctuary, let us celebrate the "hidden promise" within each of us. Just as the butterfly leaves the earth to take flight, we are invited to rise into a life defined by grace, beauty, and the eternal light of the Risen Christ. May you find your wings this Easter and experience the forgiveness and freedom of the Resurrected Christ!