

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, it is possible that a few of us have become concerned; yes, concerned that we may find ourselves in the midst of an “endless” winter!!!

“SNOW, SNOW, SNOW” it may seem as though we have had an “endless” amount of snow this winter, but we are not going to have an “endless” winter!!!

“COLD, COLD, COLD” it may seem as though we have had an “endless” amount of cold this winter, but we are not going to have an “endless” winter!!!

However, many of us will admit that after a time, after days and days of snow fall upon snow fall, after days and days of cold upon cold, with temperatures continuing to plummet without any relief it can become hard to have a sense of **“HOPE, HOPE, HOPE”** about the possibility of a new day dawning!!!

Yes but, don't you just love those **“YES BUT”** moments in life; there comes a day with just one little spark, a ray, a twinkling, a 50+ degree day, sparking **“NEW HOPE”** for a summer yet to **BE!!!** Indeed, the snow is not going to be “endless” nor is the cold going to be “endless” for we have been blessed with a spark of **“HOPE”** for a summer yet to **BE!!!**

As Christians, as children in the Family of God, we can from the Scriptures recall a moment in time when a woman stood outside an **“EMPTY TOMB”**, she was **“WEEPING”**, and the tears she wept were the tears of sadness!!!

As Mary Magdalene stood outside the **“EMPTY TOMB”** weeping, she wept because someone she loved very much, Jesus had died; she wept as well because someone had taken the body of Jesus out of the tomb in which had been laid. As Mary Magdalene stood outside of the tomb weeping we can almost feel the hopelessness of what seemed to be “endless” amount of grief, no Jesus and no body to be found!!!

However, a spark, a ray, a twinkling, a new day about to dawn, when **JESUS** appeared to Mary **ALIVE** calling her by name; **“NEW HOPE”** and tears of **JOY!!!**

EASTER is coming!!! Easter and the celebration of Easter are about the wonder of God's gracious **LOVE** for us as children in the Family of God!!!

EASTER is coming!!! Easter and the celebration of Easter are about God's precious gift of **HOPE** for us as children in the Family of God!!!

EASTER is coming!!! Easter and the celebration of Easter are about God's offer for the **RENEWAL** of our relationships with God as children in the Family of God!!!

EASTER is coming!!! Easter and the celebration of Easter are about God's precious gift of **NEW LIFE** through **CHRIST JESUS** our **LORD!!!** Let us praise **GOD** for the **HOPE** sparked by what we as God's children call Easter!!!

Love in Christ,
Dana