

Amy's Email Epistle – Thursday, April 5, 2018

Friends,

I've always wanted to be a gardener. I love the idea, but in truth I've never had much of a green thumb. Perhaps it is that I lack the time to really commit to the garden. Yet every year I pledge in earnest to try again.

This past fall a friend gave us some pussy willow starts. They were cuts from several trees on her Mother's property which was being sold. The trees were the pride and joy of her mom. It was quite an honor to receive a few starts. We accepted with the best intentions. Unfortunately life and weather got in the way, and we were not able to get them planted. We watched helplessly as they withered away in their small pots. I was sad....and quite frankly guilt ridden. We prayed every time we saw our friend that they would not ask to see where we planted the starts.

We couldn't bear to just throw them out so they spent the winter sitting outside the garage nestled against the fence. Exposed to rain, snow, and the occasional bit of sunshine. Every once in a while one of us would comment on how they were dead, and we needed to get rid of them. Until.....miraculously one day about 3 or 4 weeks ago a bright green leaf appeared on one of the plants. Then another, and another and just like that they were alive. THEY WERE ALIVE. Unbelievable.

My heart leaps with joy at the thought. Ok, they are alive. We have a second chance!

But here is the thing.....If they are gonna truly live....in order for them to grow into their fullness....We need to transplant them from those tiny containers and into the ground.....

Happy Easter!

Mark 16:1-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Resurrection of Jesus

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." 8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.