

Easter Homily “Today Will Be a Joyful Day”
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The only movie my father ever took me to see when I was a small child was the Cecil B Demile's the 10 commandments... This time of the year would not be the same for me if I did not watch that old film... I watched the Ten Commandments again last night and I am still amazed with the power it still has over me. My favorite part of the film is after the Passover, the next day when the people left Egypt. The film captures the masses of the people of different colors, abilities, ages, tribes and cultures, preparing for their journey. It was the first time I saw hundreds of people on film. I especially remember, a couple of young children describe the event to an old blind man. Some women prepare a wagon for the children sure to be born along the way. People share what they have with each other. Joshua organizes the masses. An old man gives a fig tree to be planted in the Promised Land to Moses' Egyptian mother that pulled him from the Nile as a baby. And Moses wonders how he can lead god's people to their destination, but the people do not see his hesitation, they are full of hope because for them today is a joyful day...

The movie took a lot of liberties with the Hebrew scripture but it brought to the big screen with all its special effects, a story that has been celebrated through the centuries by Jews throughout the world. After my father took me to see the movie, I later found out that my mother's father was Jewish. So I think I watch the movie to connect to my father and to my grandfather I never knew and to humanity, of how the world should/could be

The movie, the 10 commandments is the 5th grossing film of all time. And it was the highest rated religious film until Mel Gibson's Passion of the Christ that came out a couple of years ago. I have yet to see Mel Gibson's movie because I am a PG kind of girl and I love happy endings. Ask anyone that knows me, when I am blue and sad, I pop in Whale Rider to lift my spirits.

But today we are here to acknowledge another religious tradition. Today is the most sacred day in the Christian calendar. It is Easter Sunday. The only day of the year that the pubs in Ireland are closed.

The bible story tell us that after Jesus was killed on Friday, when the women went to the tomb where he was laid they found it empty.

People through history have been arguing whether Jesus was resurrected or not that day thousands of years ago. Did Jesus come back to life after he died? I do not know but I do know many people believe that he did. My parents believe it and my father is probably preaching that 'good news' in a pulpit this very hour. Millions of people are in churches all over the world this morning wanting to hear that message that Jesus died for our sins and came back alive today.

When people die we as Unitarian Universalist celebrate their life. We tell the stories about what the person taught us. What good the person did while they lived. How the person inspired us. We as Unitarians, Universalists, Unitarian Universalists, believe in the message of Jesus. We are inspired by how Jesus lived, not concerned so much about how he died.

Jesus said he had come to teach the one commandment for everyone to love one another. Jesus said, as a practicing Jew, instead of keeping 10 commandments, we only need to keep one. The commandment of love.

One of our Unitarian forefathers, Francis David said it another way, “We do not have to think alike to love alike”.

When Jesus gave this message of love to the world, he made religion universal. No one religion has a corner on love, and if you can find what a person loves, you will find what has most meaning in their lives.

Where we find love we find justice. Where we find love we find peace. Where we find love, you find happiness. No matter what religion we can live our lives in love.

Today will be a joyful day because we remember the religion universal to love..and today we recommit our lives to that commandment of love to create a better world.