Sermon by Rev.Dr. Joy Maestas, Msc.D.,Min.D. 3/15/2021

Good Morning, Today we deal with loss. During this past year and even into this year we have heard about or been touched by the loss of family and friends due to or during this pandemic.

How do we deal with this? I look to my faith in the creator of all things.

I was on Facebook the other day to check up on a Minister friend I’ve known a long time and was shocked to find his page is now a remembrance page. I feel loss and I feel like my light within has dimmed a bit knowing he has passed on. We shared laughs with each other and Christmas cards. We pushed each other through studies and rejoiced when we accomplished our goals. Never having meet in person the bond of friendship was still there.

As we go into this Lenten season I though back on the story of Lazarus that is told in John and how upon Yeshua hearing of his good friends death, waited two more days before saying let us now go. He’s just sleeping.

“To die, to sleep – to sleep, perchance to dream – ay, there's the rub, for in this sleep of death what dreams may come…” (Hamlet)

We all slumber through this life and when that time comes we awaken to a new life one where there is no pain, no worry, we are reunited with family and friends and loved ones. Our old life slips away and our new life begins.

Yeshua waited two days before coming back to give us all hope that there is more than just sleep. His light is eternal, as his light is within up we are also eternal now and forever.

We share in a collective loss and sadness for those who we can no longer speak with face to face or through the internet, yet they are every present by our sides, rejoicing with those they missed so much in this present life. They look at us and say, don’t be sad I am so much better now and I will forever cherish our time together for we will meet again it has been promised!