



That We Might Receive This Joy

This year's Easter artwork by Jan Richardson, entitled "*That We Might Receive This Joy*," offers a deceptively understated visual for contemplating the miracle of the Resurrection.

Against a dark backdrop, three bowls are stacked atop one another. Initially, we might see darkness, rusticity, and plainness. Upon closer look, however, we notice the shimmer of light imprinted against the background, the luminous silver of the bowls, the brimming gold spilling into the vessels below. The gold, we see, overtakes the dark. The silver stands out against the starkness. An abundant fullness surpasses the initial simplicity. What we may have perceived as sparse holds a richness that abounds. The image is transformed by our vision—and so are we.

Easter is hope born out of darkness. From the death and despair of the crucifixion, it arrives unheralded, almost unseen. But this miracle spread just as the gold spills over the edges . . . uncontainable.

Hope Overflowing...

The question, then, is how we will receive it into our hearts—and how we will then share it with others. The image's title confers its blessing toward that aim—for we need the grace to do so. For God so loved the world— that we might receive this joy, this hope, this transformation.

We invite you to sit with the image and contemplate what it means for you at this time in your individual life and in our collective society. We hope Richardson's image inspires you in receiving and holding the hope of Easter.

Where in your life do you need “Hope Overflowing”?

We all move through uncertainty, fear, and loss of many kinds. But we simultaneously hold the potential for joy, courage, and awe even in the darkest of times. The Easter story is anything but understated in its sweeping, upending claim. From the “finality” of death, the Resurrection rewrites everything we thought we knew. The scope of hope is broken open. Where does Easter meet you emotionally this year? What does “hope overflowing” mean for you there?

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

What does it mean to you to receive this joy?

At the celebration of Easter, we are liberated by a love greater than our understanding. These teeming silver bowls invite us to bask in a joy unbounded. Take a few minutes to rest in the visual of these silver bowls overflowing. Fill your cup from their abundance. Drink deeply. Feel what settles in you. Notice what rises in you. What would it be to take this feeling into your life?

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

How can you be “Hope Overflowing” for others?

Each bowl is full on its own, but atop one another, their overflow sets in motion a cascading energy. Similarly, we can be a vessel for God’s love and mercy in the world by sharing of ourselves to create an exchange of care and hope together. God is our infinite source. In receiving “hope overflowing,” we are called to give of that gift freely. May all that the Resurrection opens for us, open our hearts to one another.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

**Hope lives because He does.
Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

