

## Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 2

Saturday, April 24



Moonlight at dawn, Lewis Center

*Praise the LORD, my soul. LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants. He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down. Psalm 104:1-4 & 19*

At 6:30 a.m. the full moon was outside the apartment shining, in all its glory, just before the dawn. It came flooding through the closed blinds, a reminder of God's presence.

We take dawn and dusk, sunrise and sunset, and the changing of the seasons for granted. They come and go and mark time in a way that is under the surface of our lives. In our conscious minds, our phones, computers, watches, and digital clocks tell us what time it is and remind us of where we need to be or what we need to be doing.

Each year, our calendars tell us that Easter is on a different Sunday than the previous year. It is so confusing! Why can't it just sit still like the celebration of Christmas? Because, the ancients were more closely connected to God's creation and the telling of time. They used the sun and the moon to recognize what time it was and where they needed to be or what they needed to be doing.

Our Easter celebration each year is determined based on this: the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the vernal equinox. You see the moon in this phrase, but remember the vernal equinox (around March 20) is when the sun provides an equal amount of daylight and darkness throughout the earth.

Easter is all about God's love taking on all of our foibles, sins, and faults so that we might be free to live. Every single day can be a pattern to remind us of God's grace lived out through Easter, if we but look to the sky.