

In one of my favorite novels, *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson, the main character, a minister, reflects on a difficult number of years in his life after the death of his wife. He writes, “Now that I look back, it seems to me that in all that deep darkness a miracle was preparing. So I am right to remember it as a blessed time, and myself as waiting in confidence, even if I had no idea what I was waiting for.

Those few sentences for me are a beautiful evocation of what faith is. Faith is being open to the seeds of blessing even in dark and difficult times. Faith is the confidence in the possibility of renewal in loss. Faith is the ability for “waiting in confidence,” even while letting go of our need to believe we can control or even know what we are waiting for.

Pesach is a holiday that captures this idea of faith. It celebrates the miracle of spring and rebirth after the barrenness of winter. It recounts and reenacts the expectant waiting of the Israelites, as they learned to be attuned to the blessedness of their dark time so they could gather the courage to create a new future. As they prepared to leave Egypt and as they were poised at the Reed Sea, we too, every spring remind ourselves that loss and rebirth, darkness and miracle, confidence and unknowingness, are the stuff of life. Like the Israelites, we have no idea what will await us, but we pray to have the faith to be open to the blessing.

I hope to talk and reconnect to as many of you as possible over the next month as we prepare for Pesach and a new journey. I also love to hear from people either by phone or in person so please feel free to stop by or call. We are marching from Egypt together! I wish everyone a healthy and joyous Pesach, a time of faith and blessing.

B'virkat Shalom,
Rabbi Caryn Broitman