I was asked for one piece of advice I would give someone in a preaching ministry. That’s not an easy request to respond to! However, the question did indeed trigger a thought that has formed more and more clearly in my mind over half a lifetime of taking preaching seminars in a fair swath of the Anglican Communion. It’s a thought that seems to get more and more response from brother and sister clergy. It goes like this:

Our generation is facing the greatest threat humanity has yet faced. All wars, all plagues, all disasters, pale in comparison with the great shadow we call climate change. We are contemplating nothing less than the death of the planet that is our beloved and only home.

Christian faith brings to this unprecedented threat an equally unprecedented truth, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. What we have sometimes neglected to emphasize is that we believe this to be far more than a past event. We believe it to be an ongoing reality throughout every aspect of the human journey through time. One thing I hope to do is to point to the way in which early Christians grew in their understanding of Resurrection. It is not for nothing that every Sunday we say in Eucharist, not Christ HAS risen but “Christ IS risen”.

My single piece of advice to any Christian preacher? Let our song be that of Resurrection!

*-Herb O’Driscoll*