

# ECOWATCH

## A crow's eye view of Easter Sunday

■ BY DELORES SAVAS

“For flowers that bloom about our feet,  
For tender grass so fresh and sweet,  
For songs of birds and Hum of bees,  
for all things far we hear and see,  
Father in heaven we thank thee!”  
*Ralph Waldo Emerson,  
an American essayist, lecturer,  
philosopher and abolitionist*

Easter Sunday has always represented new life, a sign of rebirth and a time of hope for better days ahead as problems of the world swirl around us. It is more than the fluff of Easter things that hide the true meaning of Easter, buried among the hustle and bustle of the day.

One sure way to get the true meaning of Easter is to look at the miracle of nature around us. It is free and unblemished. We only must stop, look, and listen to the sounds of nature that were given to all of us if we only take the time to inhale the smell of new grass, the sounds of birds chirping, frogs croaking, and new flowers and trees in their new foliage.

And sometimes we will get the message of Easter from the unexpected and possibly not so handsome in the eyes of many. It's the story of a former resident of the island long ago, Lorn the Crow, named after my son who became friends with our unexpected guest.

Lorn entered our lives with a call from a local veterinarian who needed a home for a crow that was brought to the clinic with his tail feather cut off. He could no longer fly. At that time our organization, Friends of Wildlife, was in operation on the island, taking in injured animals, and Lorn was our first crow. While at our home, he became friends with our dog Sandy, who often shared the patio with him and often fed him, and he in turn fed her. Through a happy two



years, he learned to say certain words and phrases such as “shut the door,” “Ma,” “hi,” and quacking like a duck, and other bird sounds.

Due to new neighbors who did not appreciate Lorn's verbal repertoire all day, we took him to Peace River Wildlife Center in Punta Gorda, where he became a permanent guest, entertaining visitors with his vocabulary. He also took young injured crows under his wing and made sure they were not harmed. A visit to the center to visit Lorn was always a melancholy one, especially when he always found a special twig and gave it to me.

However, an event on an Easter Sunday Sunrise Service showed how very special Lorn was. “Every year an Easter Sunday sunrise service is held in the beautiful pavilion at Ponce de Leon Park, which is in proximity to the Peace River Wildlife Center. In fact, when worshipers gather there, Lorn had ‘a bird's eye view’! (caw haw haw - crow humor)

To say that this service was out of the ordinary for those who raise their voices in praise would be correct. For how many Easter services have a crow joining in singing in his raspy tone, his caws hitting all the high notes?

Throughout the service, Lorn joins the joyful chorus in celebration, and the congregation loved it. Surely, even the Holy One above gets a chuckle out of the feathered choir boy! This must be the first time in recorded history that a crow had joined in singing Easter hymns.

It was very clear that Lorn was not only a singer and a caregiver, but his sociable and generous ways have made him a sort of “Good Will Ambassador” - not only for crows in general but for all creatures of the wild. He has shown everyone kindness, unselfishness, and love. Hopefully, we can all learn from him and extend the same



love and kindness to members of his world.”

Lorn, the crow, died in 2003, and a story of his passing was on the front page of the Sun Herald. The verse written by Cat Stevens, “Morning has broken like the first morning, Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for them springing fresh from the world” fit his passing.

The center gave me his ashes that I received with sadness and happiness, that Lorn's story may just awaken the sensibilities in people that may look at a person or animal that may not appear handsome and be treated in a negative way.

And on a sad note, Lorn my son died on the island in a car accident on March 28, 1993. But like Lorn the crow, his memory lives on, and he is also remembered by many for his love of nature and adventure and his guitar music and family. He was a true son of the island.

Below are some quotes for Easter thoughts, may your Easter Sunday be filled with hopes for a peaceful world, filled with brotherhood for all.

- “No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will spring up in the middle of nowhere.” - Sheryl Crow, singer.
- “For I remember it is Easter morning, and life and love and peace are all newborn, and joy has triumphed over loss and pain.” - Alice Freeman Palmer, poet.
- “Do not abandon yourself in despair, we are the Easter people and Hallelujah is our song.” - Pope John Paul II.

Happy Easter to all. Enjoy the day...  
Editor's Note: Excerpts were taken from the book Forlorn, by Delores Savas

**SOURCE**

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