

easter day 12 APRIL 2020 love and truth arose

Introduction

Each Easter Sunday, in each communion, this glorious Easter Acclamation, "**Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**" is met with joyful strains and sombre prayer.

For this is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world, scattered though we may be, the voice praise proclaims this joyous morn, for the joy of the Christmas birth now returns as the whole world is reborn to the glory of God.

Greeting

The angel said to the women,

"Do not be afraid, I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified;
He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said."

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!

(If you have a candle please light it as the Light of Christ)

A Hymn of Resurrection: tis 370 "Christ the Lord is Risen tody, Alleluia!" Charles Wesley
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15dmjnB8FZU>

When I saw and heard this is brought a smile to my face and thrill to my heart.

I read this comment, "Now that And that's how it should be done. Rousing, glorious, thundering and hearty. This took my breath away. I sang at the top of my voice on Easter Sunday morning when we had this for the opening hymn. I Loved it."

Prayer

May we spend some time in prayer, giving thanks for this day. for the signs of life around us.

A Lament in time on this Day of Hope

Beloved friends, I hardly know what to say in this Holy Week except that my heart is with you, along with my prayers. This year, more than ever, I am mindful that John's Gospel tells us Mary Magdalene went to the tomb *while it was still dark* and found it empty.

As we move through the shadows cast by COVID-19 ... we are finding many things empty.

"If we have grown weary in this season. If we have become overwhelmed. If we are living with fear or anxiety or worry about what lies ahead. If the swirl of Holy Week has become intense. If time is moving strangely. If grief has been a traveling companion. If the ground beneath us has given way. If resurrection seems less than certain..."

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Let us pray with courage and faith

Blessed and glorious Lord of all creation;

for out of darkness you have cause light to shine

out of death you have brought forth life eternal

for in your great love for us and for the world you have given us new birth into a living hope

in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

to you be all glory now and forever. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and forever shall be.

world without end; Alleluia, Amen.

A Word from the Prophets Isaiah 52.7-15

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of the one who brings good news.

How amazing to see and understand something we had never known.

A Word from the Gospel John 20.1-18 And love will rise up and call us by name.

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Jesus said to her, "Mary!" ... her name and his voice ...

Amid the search for explanations and proofs, it is that the risen Jesus calls Mary by name is what transforms us. This is no anonymous, isolating experience, rather it is Jesus coming to us in our isolation and meets us face to face, heart to heart, person to person - let *Mary* be your name too.

You might find yourself remembering this familiar hymn ...

*"I come to the garden alone, when the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses ..."*

But, we cannot stay in the garden for we must now take the roses that we have seen and show it to the whole of the world. So, it was from the tomb that Jesus rose, and from the tomb that Mary went. Jesus had spoken in parables about his death, now, in Jesus, this has become a living parable.

the seed quickens in countless hearts

It is an ancient word, "to quicken" to enliven, to animate ... but it carries with it the sense of the mysterious power of the holy Spirit who is the very life of God, the very life of all things.

"Christ was in the tomb; the whole world was sown with the seed of Christ's life; that which happened thirty years ago in the womb of the Virgin Mother was happening now, but now it was happening yet more secretly, yet more mysteriously, in the womb of the whole world. Christ had already told those who flocked to hear Him preach that the seed must fall into the earth, or else remain by itself alone. Now the seed of His life was hidden in darkness in order that His life should quicken in countless hearts, over and over again for all time. His burial, which seemed to be the end, was the beginning. It was the beginning of Christ-life in multitudes of souls. It was the beginning, too, of the renewal of Christ's life in countless souls."

by-Caryll Houselander

We offer our Prayers for our World and for Ourselves

All those who join or lead online worship this weekend.

All those who pray or worship at home to celebrate our Risen Crucified Lord with your local resources.

May God bless you all for your faithfulness, and keep you and your loved ones safe until we meet again.

For all those doubly affected by cyclones in the Pacific.

for our friends and families, empty chairs at empty tables ...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Hymn tis 380 "thine be the Glory" by Edmund Louis Budry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaoV5w2Qfag>

Thank you to Jan and Allan for responding to offer some thought to us for Easter as well.

Let us continue with our Easter worship.

EASTER SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Rev Jan Rossow

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'What does the Resurrection mean for you?'

Pause and imagine giving your answer to someone who has asked ...

Here are a few of the answers I've received:

1. 'I don't really know. I haven't thought about it.'
2. 'It means that there is a new life for me, and I'm waiting for it to come. I believe I really can be different, but it hasn't happened yet.'
3. 'It means I am free to worship God. You are able to worship in spite of the crap in your life. We are able to rise above the circumstances and trust God, and have hope for the future.'
4. 'It means that Jesus is real, and not just a theory. That gives me freedom. I want more and more of his life to be translated into my life. I feel like I have such a little bit of what is possible.'
5. 'It means that all the 'death' things are defeated.'
6. 'It means I am free from the fear of dying.'

The primary meaning of Easter Sunday is that Jesus is who he says he is, and if he is who he says he is, then he has done what he says he has done. At Jesus' trial Caiaphas challenged, 'In the name of the living God I now put you on oath: tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.' Jesus answered him, 'I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting on the right of the Almighty and coming on the clouds of heaven.' His Resurrection is his vindication. He is who he says he is. It is only because Jesus is who he says he is, and it is only when we believe that he is who he says he is, that his resurrection has application to us. Otherwise, it's only something we have heard someone else talk about. If he hasn't been raised, then he isn't who he says he is, and the whole lot falls apart.

The Resurrection is the vindication of ALL that Jesus claimed. That he has the power to forgive sins. That he did come into the world to seek and find the lost. That he was sent from the Father. That he was ONE with the Father and did only what he saw the Father doing. He told them beforehand that he would be just like Jonah – three days in the depths of the earth. He told the disciples in plain straightforward language that he would be killed and rise three days later. He told them several times over, so that when it all happened, precisely as he said it would, they wouldn't miss the point. He was who he said he was. He has the power to do what he said he had the power to do. We know, because he rose from the dead.

*Easter grace to you all,
Rev Jan Rossow*

A THOUGHT FOR EASTER SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2020.

Rev Allan Kuchler

Quite a few years ago now, possibly as many as 30 or more "The Seekers" sang a song "The times they are a changing". It was true then and it is true now – The times they are a changing. Easter 2020 will be like no Easter before and may be like none that is to come!

This year Easter will be celebrated with no packed church buildings, no family visits or picnics or celebrations like we have known in the past. Instead, worship will be shared with the Church scattered through the community – in people's homes with may be one or two people. Family gatherings will take place via Face Time or Telephone Calls and perhaps for those near at hand – face to face at a distance.

It will take a bit of adjustment on the part of all people to be able to embrace the change. However, even though the times they are changing, there will be some constants in the experience. In our shared and yet scattered worship experience, we will read familiar passages of Scripture and hear again familiar words like: "He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said", (Matthew 28:6) or perhaps "Woman why are you crying?" Jesus asked her, "Who is it that you are looking for?"

