

Easter Sunday
April 12th, 2020



Opening

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect

Lord of life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, you have overcome the old order of sin and death and have made all things new in him. May we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, reign with him in glory, who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive, one God, now and for ever.

READINGS

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118: 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28.1-10

REFLECTIONS

What does the Resurrection mean to you? Your answer, and mine, will probably be based on what we think Jesus life, teaching and death was all about.

We have been exploring this theme of the meaning of Jesus life and death with reflections from various sources in an unsystematic way. This has not been an academic exercise, but I hope an emotional one, where you might have read something in one of the reflections that resonated as truth for you.

The promise I made at the beginning of Holy Week was to share differing views and now I want to share by own and reflect on what Resurrection means for me.

Jesus is for me the living incarnation of God, to see Jesus is to see God, in action, in a human life. Everything that he did, healing, teaching, radical inclusion of women, and care for other marginalized people, shows me that God is a God of unconditional love. Jesus proclamation of the Kingdom of God, the earthly vision of God's **will being done on earth** shows me God's concern for justice for all, peace and non violence. When I look at all this, I see Jesus death and resurrection as a profound indictment of the human domination systems of this world. The Kingdom of Rome, as Jesus experienced it, has not gone away, but is reflected today in every Government, Warlord, Individual, Corporation or Organization that maintains unjust control over the many for the benefit of the few. Wherever the rich get richer and the poor get poorer we see the Kingdom of Rome. Jesus died protesting against that very system. I see his Resurrection to be, as the scholar Marcus Borg once said, "God's NO to Rome and YES to Jesus." Today whenever I see a refugee family rescued and settled in Canada, a homeless person offered shelter out of the cold, a Government that puts the needs of the common person ahead of the needs of the wealthy elite, a church, or organization, or individual who works for justice in this world, I see and experience the Resurrection. Christ is alive and continues to shape the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Love.

Jesus is also for me a fully human being who, while one with God, did not hesitate to be obedient to his deep vocation even to the point of dying. Jesus obedience unto death, is a model of obedience, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet not what I want, but what you want." Mk 13.36 I don't read this as God sending Jesus to death, but Jesus deciding that standing firm for the Kingdom of Love is his truest vocation, and being obedient to that calling. I see the Resurrected Christ today in every health care provider, grocery worker, postal worker, garbage collector, and every other essential worker, in my own daughter going out to staff a homeless shelter, in the loving acts of people staying home out of love for others, in those telephoning or writing the lonely. I see the Resurrected Christ in a friend dropping off the masks she has sewn, in the faces of so many selflessly loving people, I hope you too are being and seeing the Resurrected Christ today. The Resurrection we celebrate this morning has not stopped.

Jesus died on a cruel cross, and God too suffered and dies with Jesus experiencing fully our human condition. Jesus didn't suffer for us, he suffered with us. Now, for us, the cross is a symbol of God's love in complete oneness with us. The Suffering but Resurrected Christ walks with all those today who are in fear, those who are dying, those in grief, wherever suffering is found in the human condition God is there and the potential for Resurrection is also there. God is all compassionate, and knows our needs and suffering today there is great suffering in this world but also great loving concern as

the Resurrected Christ works in the midst of this pandemic bringing knowledge to scientists, compassion to caring workers, wisdom to politicians (if they are open to the Spirit), strength to clergy, comfort to the bereaved and so much more. God is with us.

Finally, the Resurrection for me is the potential to realize that God loves me so unconditionally that, if I too take up my Cross of transformation, I could live into God's dream for me. Day by day, trying to be obedient to the Spirit's voice in my life. In this way to grow, day by day, (give me this day my daily bread) into what the baptismal liturgy calls, the full stature of Christ. A daunting thought. But if we have died with Christ, we can live a Resurrected life with Christ. And God is not finished with me or any of us, if we allow, "the Spirit working in us to do more than we can ask or imagine."

This is not, I confess, a complete or systematic account of the Resurrection, but is rather my attempt to share, with myself and with you, what the Spirit has given me on this strange and wonderful Easter Sunday morning in the midst of a great global suffering but also a great global Resurrection in the year of our Lord 2020.

May you experience the Risen Christ wherever you are today and everyday,

With prayers for peace and safety,

Yours in Christ,

Archdeacon Rick Jones

rickplus@gmail.com

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

prepared by Anne Gagan

Please ---stop---pause----think----IT's Easter

O God, We gather together separated by life-saving distancing, but united more than ever in spirit;

We know we are in a war against COVID -19 together, and the more together we are, the better and stronger we will emerge.

Jesus Christ is risen today, our holy triumphant day. Alleluia!

So—(**stop---pause----think**)- Let us pray to the Lord saying,--- **“Risen Christ, we praise you!”**

Heavenly King, for us you endured the cross and the grave. When we were yet sinners, you redeemed us and saved us. We pray for all our church and Government leaders. May we sing your eternal praises everywhere we go .

(*pause---. think of Jesus sacrifice*) **“Risen Christ, we praise you!”**

Incarnate Love, where hearts are wintery, grieving or in pain, call forth new life by your touch. Bring forth life in the barren places of your world, help the refugees on the Greek islands.

(*pause--- think of God's Love for you—be still*) **“Risen Christ, we praise you!”**

Author of Life, you are the ruler of creation. All things created on earth sing to your glory. From the death of winter, raise the fair beauty of earth.

(*pause---think of this beautiful county we live in*) **“Risen Christ, we praise you!”**

Resurrected One, bring our neighbours from sadness into joy. Where they live in darkness, brighten their lives with a day of splendor and give to all that peace that passes human knowing.

(*pause---think of all your blessings-- be still*) **“Risen Christ, we praise you!”**

Triumphant Lord, **remember our** parishioners and friends in need of Your healing touch -Betty F., Don G., Franz & Elaine Z., Andrea P., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Kathleen C-S., Bill Mc., Dwayne M.& Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Jerry M., Diane H., Delores B., Mark A. & Hazel A.,& baby Maeve A.,

Also Lord remember our shut-ins: June, Shirley, Iris, Everett, Julie, David, John, Anna, Ron anyone known to you.

Gladden the faces of all who are sad and fearful-hearted. May they rejoice in your victory over sin and pain

even as they share in your glorious triumph.

(*pause---think now of all those who are working to save lives , to find a solution to this threat to us! --be still*) **“Risen Christ, we praise you!”**

Risen Christ, you have opened heaven's gate. You have freed us from the power of death. Through your resurrection, you give us the promise of a resurrection to a holier state. Bless the dying and the dead.

(*pause---think--*) **“Risen Christ, we praise you!”**

Risen Christ, Your mercy endures forever.

Hear the prayers of your people.

And grant US the strength and courage to walk in your ways,
all the days of our lives.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

AMEN.

Please pray for Our Bishop Dr. Todd Townshend, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda, our Primate, Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop and Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia Rev. Kendall Reimer-Johnston and the Rev. Rosalyn Elm and the people of the **Parish of the Six Nations..**

Pray for all our essential workers at this time including grocery store clerks, cleaners, truck drivers, food chain supply workers, maintenance workers.

A Prayer for Use During a Time of Pandemic

God, we ask that all who are affected by this virus be held in your loving care. In this time of uncertainty, help us to know what is ours to do. We know you did not cause this suffering but that you are with us in it and through it. Help us to recognize your presence in acts of kindness, in moments of silence, and in the beauty of the created world. Grant peace and protection to all of humanity for their well-being and for the benefit of the earth. Amen

(Center for Action and Contemplation)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others
Amen

CLOSING PRAYER

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord,
Amen

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Easter Sunday with Bishop Todd Townsend at 10 a.m. here:
<https://diohuron.org/diocese-of-huron-easter-video/>

Easter Sunday with the Primate Linda Nicholls at 10 a.m. here:
<https://youtu.be/svB-cQ7HZtg>

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit please call the Rector. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Archdeacon Rick Jones can be contacted by email rickplus@gmail.com or by phone @ 905 537 0324

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lbpaparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page