



Reflection for Easter Sunday 2020

Happy Easter! I wish you and your loved ones every blessing!

Once again, I am talking from our study on the 4th Sunday running that our churches have been closed – strange times indeed. And very strange for Easter – the time we usually meet and celebrate together.

But Easter is here despite all that goes on around it and it brings a message of new life, of new hope and of new and better beginnings. As the Queen says “Easter isn’t cancelled, indeed we need Easter as much as ever...we know that coronavirus will not overcome us”.

Listening to the news and reading the papers I am so amazed at the words from people of a declared ‘no faith’ position who can see the relevance of the Easter Story to the circumstances we find ourselves in today. People can see the huge similarities of the circumstances of the terrible suffering of Jesus on the cross with the suffering of the world today from this virus. Jesus died on Good Friday, killed by the people who should have cared for him – and his followers were distraught - it must have felt like the end of the world.

But It wasn’t - as we now know it was just the beginning, so we too must trust that, just as that first Easter when Jesus rose from the dead.

We as individuals and us as a society also have the capacity to bring about a new and better world.

After the disciples recovered from the shock of Jesus dying, then the shock of Him rising, they then became a huge force for good which transformed the world of its day and for ever. They were empowered to make a real difference in society – they followed the ways of Jesus in standing up for Justice, feeding the poor, nursing the sick and caring for the underdogs in society.

They lived to love their neighbours as themselves, just as Jesus had commanded them.

Jesus had shown them the huge difference in the treatment of rich and poor, the haves and have nots. Likewise this virus is showing where the most vulnerable are – in America the death toll among African and Asian Americans is hugely higher than white Americans, due to differences in health care and the effects of poverty. We wait with bated breath and pray that the virus doesn’t get into the ghettos of the poorest 3rd world countries, where the basics of social distancing and clean water for washing are not possible, let alone a hospital bed and a ventilator.

We are so blessed in this country of ours – although the virus is striking all in our society from the Prime Minister to the homeless, we have our amazing NHS where great treatment is available for all – not just the wealthy. We are a country built on Christian Values.

So now we need to trust in those caring for us – the scientists, the doctors and nurses and our government -trusting that God will give them the skills to bring us out of this emergency.

But most of all we need to trust in the God who made this beautiful planet and all the beauty in it. We need to trust in God's Son, who lived for us and died for us so that we could live lives of love and care for others. We need to trust in God's Spirit who restores and gives life to all creation and to all people.

We must, like those first disciples celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Be the living presence of Jesus in this world today and then be a force for good in the world just as they were – helping to re-build a kinder, more compassionate world where all people are equally loved and cared for and where all of creation is loved and cared for.

That is why Jesus died and rose for each one of us – to bring us all new life, in this world and the next!

May God bless you and keep you, May His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look kindly upon you and all those you love and grant you his Love, Joy and peace this day and always.

Amen

