

Easter Day

Feels like we are living in a world full of darkness at the moment.

But I like the idea that on Easter Day, the sun is coming up:

the sun is rising, the Son has risen.

The light bursts forth on this glorious day.

For me, it calls to mind Zechariah's prophetic words, recorded by Luke (ch.1:78-79):

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

It was true in the beginning of creation, at the beginning of Jesus' life and now also at his resurrection: Jesus gives light to our darkness.

Maybe this year, as we cannot do so many of the things we usually do, as the world feels such a strange, worrisome place right now, maybe the resurrection good news will seem even better?

Maybe the hope will feel even more powerful?

Maybe the light shining out from the empty tomb as the stone is rolled away will shine even brighter? The contrast between the darkness and the light is greater than ever. So, revel in the light that shines so brightly from the empty tomb. Let the light of the resurrection, the light of Christ shine in this world brighter than ever this year!

Happy Easter!

Prayers

We thank you so much, Wonderful God, for the victory you have won for us all.

We thank you for the joy of the resurrection.

We thank you for the hope it gives us for life now and for the future without end.

We thank you for your great power at work in resurrection and at work in us too.

We pray for your resurrection power to be at work:

in our sickness and pain

in the fight against Covid-19

in the loneliness and anxiety so many are feeling

in the work of your people coming together to make life better

in all places where there is inequality and unfairness

in our personal struggles

in our grief

We pray for your resurrection power to change us and change the world!

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

And here is a prayer from Gideon Heugh at the aid charity Tearfund that I have found to be helpful in these past few days:

Dear God,

Help me to see darkness not as something to be feared, but as an opportunity to better understand the light. Help me to take my own light into places of darkness. Amen.

Read: John chapter 1: 1-18 and chapter 20.