



The Israelite prophet Micah said: *"What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

God of mercy and source of justice,
pour on your people such love and compassion that
we cannot remain silent,
we cannot tolerate injustice and poverty.
As your grace fills our hearts
so may we be stirred into action
to demonstrate your love for all the world
and for all creatures that live and move on this earth.
Amen

We are often not the **Easter People**
that we should be,
living in the certain knowledge
of your great mercy and love.
Distracted by the world around us
we fail to hear your voice,
or hide when faith is challenged
as we wander off the path.
Forgive us, we pray;
restore the love that we first had,
a faith that can endure.
We will keep our eyes fixed on you, Lord,
and with you at our right hand
we shall not be shaken.
Amen



Prayer Bulletin April 2018

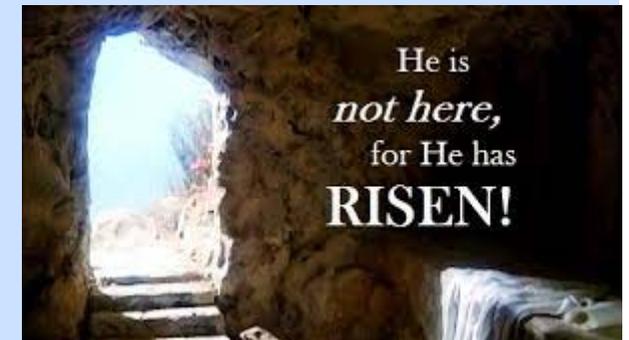
*'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer'
Romans 12:12*

*We hope this bulletin will encourage your prayer throughout this month—individually,
in Prayer Triplets and in Life Groups.
Our weekly church prayer meeting is on Wednesdays at 9am.*

Resurrection Hope

In the dawn light, the women had come for their friend, their teacher, their healer - lying prone on the cold rock - and they have stumbled into heaven. They have come for death, and they have found life. They have come for the silence of the tomb, and they have heard the voice of an angel - 'Do not be alarmed - he is risen!' In the deep silence of the early morning, the sun gleams on his white robe, and heaven is singing for its risen Lord.

It is love that believes the resurrection. It is, conversely, the resurrection of Jesus that awakens love - love for him, love for one another, love for God's world. This is the message of Easter. **This is the message of hope.**



This is the message for, and through, the whole church, through all of us together. This is the message of Jesus.
May it be so for us, in us and not least through us.



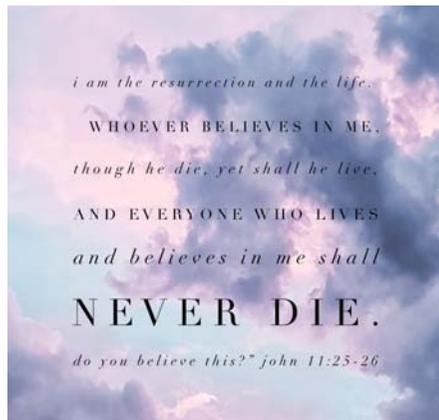
Christianity without the **resurrection** is not simply Christianity without its final chapter. It is not Christianity at all. The Resurrection is the supreme vindication of Jesus' divine identity and his inspired teaching. It's the proof of his triumph over sin and death. It's the foreshadowing of the resurrection of his followers.

It's the basis of Christian hope. It's the miracle of all miracles.

On Easter Sunday, God broke the silence. He awoke. He spoke. And for those of us who walk (however reluctantly) in Jesus' footsteps from Gethsemane and Golgotha to the Garden tomb, Easter Sunday offers irrepressible hope. That one ultimate miracle - the resurrection of the Son of God from the dead - assures us that every buried dream and dashed hope will ultimately be absorbed and resurrected into the reality far greater than anything we can currently imagine.

People can have the wrong idea about the resurrection. It is not that Jesus came back from the dead like Lazarus did, with his body resuscitated, some day to die again. Rather, Christ has definitely and finally destroyed the power of death. He has now been raised beyond the mortal sphere into the life of God. Not only does death not now have any hold on him; ***it need not have a hold on anybody.***

Jesus' **Resurrection** is the Cornerstone of Christianity; the Bible reveals the unfolding drama of **Redemption**; that Redemption requires a **Response** from us; our best Response is one of **Repentance**; Repentance leads to **Reconciliation** with God; Reconciliation restores our **Relationship** with him; **Renewal** comes through a restored **Relationship** with God.



How can I be sad and discouraged when Christ has died, and risen, for me?

I rise with you, dear Jesus, and you rise with me.
As the fire of love burns within you, it warms my heart.
As the breath of eternal life fills your body, I know that I shall live forever.
As the Word of God comes from your lips, your name is written forever on my forehead.

I rise with you, dear Jesus, and you rise with me.

Amen.

Lord, I will trust You; help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.

Christ of the mysteries, can I trust you to be stronger than each storm in me?

Strengthen me with your blessing and appoint to me the task.

Teach me to live with eternity in view.

Tune my spirit to the music of heaven.

Feed me, and, somehow, make my obedience count for you.

Amen.

Lord of life

We pray for all who bring your word of life

As a light to those in darkness

For those who bring your word of peace

To those enslaved by fear

For those who bring your word of love

To those in need of comfort

Lord of love and Lord of peace

Lord of **resurrection life**

Be known

Through our lives

and through your power

Christ the Lord is risen to-day

Alleluia!

