

A reflection for Easter Day

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

In the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection there is an almost breathless excitement at what is happening. On our current situation it might be difficult to find excitement and joy. And yet in some ways our own experience of fear and anxiety, of being uncertain at this time is similar to that of those closest to Jesus on that Resurrection Day. They come to the tomb in fear and wonder, down cast and depressed, and the Lord is there to meet them and to reassure them that all will be well and that he continues to be close to them. As I was building the Easter Garden (outside this year) in the Church Garden I was struck by how this year all of the flowers and plants are coming into blossom as if to greet the reason Lord. This coming of Spring, and of new life must surely be a sign of hope for us too. The reading from St John's Gospel today is full of symbolism. Mary Magdalene and the Beloved Disciple are for St John the one's who love the Lord the most. They are examples of loving Christ faithfully and drawing close to him. Mary is rewarded for her faithfulness by seeing the empty tomb first of all. Yet in her worry and timidity she runs to get the two disciples. Peter and the Beloved Disciple race to the tomb. The Beloved Disciple arrives first but he waits for Peter, who represents the authority of the Apostle's as the first Apostle. Peter enters and its followed by the Beloved Disciple who we are told sees and believes. It is the Beloved Disciples love that causes him to believe, he has been transformed by that love which comes from the Lord. The love that has been demonstrated so clearly in these last days through the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday, through the giving of the Eucharist to the Church, through the agony and death on the Cross, and now in the Resurrection. The empty tomb invites us to fill our lives with that same love for God that the Apostles and the women have. A love that at time can be confused by circumstance and human experience but a love that is no less powerful, and a love that has the power to transform the world. This love can be shown in the simplest of ways, a kind word, showing that your care, by praying for someone or offering them you support. Perhaps we have discovered a little this year that our faith can carry us through and that the lesson of love from Jesus is one that we need to focus on more and more in our lives, in our church, and in our world. I want to leave you with a simple image of love. It is a homemade Easter Garden. Made simply as a sign of love - love of God, and love of neighbour. A sign that the love and power of the resurrection will save us all. May God bless you and your families

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

