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***Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!***



Perhaps at this time, more than ever, we need to hear again the joyful proclamation that Jesus Christ is Risen! Another Passiontide and Easter are celebrated in what has become a year-long global Covid-19 pandemic. Many are still struggling with this virus; many are still living in isolation, anxiety, and loss. In the midst of these challenging times of sickness and social isolation, the Risen Lord cries out to us:

“Peace be with you!”

Easter is the season of Christian joy, of renewal and rebirth. Easter brings to us the beauty of God’s creation in springtime, and with it the beauty of new life. But most important of all, Easter brings the good news of our salvation in Jesus Christ and the promise of everlasting life. Armed with our Christian faith, sustained by the good news of the Resurrection, we go forward with hope and joy – even as we face the realities of the world around us.

Regardless of what may happen in our world, or in our lives, we know Christ lives. He has told us not to be anxious or afraid – He has overcome the world. In His abiding presence we need not fear what the future may hold; we need not fear the impact of sickness and disease as people without hope; we need not fear the power of the enemy. As Christians, we walk with the risen Lord each day; we know the power of His presence in our lives: transforming, healing, forgiving, loving, empowering. In the conditions of our present world, in the face of an ongoing global pandemic, sectarian violence, and an ever-increasing secularization, it is important that we live as people of faith, abounding in the love of Christ, and ever ready to give a reason for our hope.

As Christians we know that the battlefield on which we overcome the world is not in the great and dramatic but in the battlefield of ordinary daily living. It is in day-to-day living that Christian faith wins or loses; it is in day-to-day living that the crown of Christian character is gained or lost. And it is in our day-to-day living as Christians amidst our world that we are given opportunities to extend the invitation to faith in the Risen Christ, to show the true face of love, and to fulfill the Great Commandment of Christ to evangelize the world in His Name.

Let it be then our responsibility this Eastertide to bear witness to the truth of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let the battlefield of daily living be for us a place of victory, through faith in the One who loves us, and who died and rose again for our salvation. Our Lord said to His frightened, disheartened disciples: “Shalom” – ‘Peace be with you’. And so He says to each of His disciples today: “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” In the faith of Christ Crucified and Risen, let us reach out to a fallen world in the love and peace of the Lord this Eastertide.

May all our Bishops, Clergy and People across the Traditional Anglican Church be blessed this Easter Season with a faith renewed, with God’s healing grace, and abiding hope in the promises of our Saviour. May I extend to you all my blessing and prayers for a joyous Eastertide.

+Shane