

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

from Rev Trevor Capstick

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Dear friends

This month we continue our Lenten journey into Holy Week and on to Easter.

We do this in the company of millions of Christians around the world, as well as the many others who – through the centuries – have followed the path of Jesus.

At Easter time we should also walk alongside those who suffer in the world, the many victims of war and injustice – particularly we think about and pray for people of Ukraine. According to veteran Scottish Church leader and missionary Peter Millar, “Without their companionship in our hearts, Easter becomes much less than it truly is in the mind of God.”

As we think of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet on Maundy Thursday (an example of the love and care he showed throughout his ministry), we might reflect on the countless simple acts of love and caring going on every day. Is there some simple act of love we can do today in the spirit of Jesus?

On Good Friday we reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus. His cry of dereliction from the cross (“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”) is “God calling out to God, God torn apart from God” – meaning there is nowhere where God is not and there is nothing which can separate us from God’s love in Christ.

On Easter Sunday, we share in the mystery and joy of Christ’s resurrection. We think of Mary Magdalene in the Easter garden, turning away from the tomb and towards the risen Jesus (turning from death to life).

By ancient tradition, new Christians were often baptised into the faith on Easter Day, using the words “I turn to Christ.”

May this Easter be a new opportunity for us to turn to Christ, knowing he waits to greet us and call us, each one, by name.

POEMS FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER by Ann Lewin

(from her book “Watching for the Kingfisher”(Inspire,2004))

CHALLENGE

On that night, there were two bowls of water.

The first was taken and used for washing feet, symbol, he said, of love.

The second was called for and used for washing hands, disclaiming responsibility.

The bowls are constantly before us:

Into which will we dip our hands?

EASTER MORNING

Do not cling...
Let me be bigger than your
Heart can hold.
Rise with me to a
Larger vision.

AN EASTER PRAYER by Rev. Michaela Youngson (leading Methodist minister)

When everything was dark and it seemed that
the sun would never shine again, your love broke through.
Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light.
Gracious God, we praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.
Amen.

A thought from Frederick Buechner (American writer and church minister)

The world says, the more you take, the more you have.
Christ says, the more you give, the more you are.

A prayer reflection from Graham Jeffery (Anglican priest and writer)

"I am come that you may have life" (John 10:10)

Where do I fit in, Lord?
That's what I'd like to know.
Each piece of the jigsaw has its place,
fits in with others neatly,
completes the picture.
But I who have no place
know that you need me.
In your design I am invaluable.
You pick me up.
You place me.
You love me.
You are my friend.