

Reflection for Easter Day

We have arrived at Easter Day! The turbulent passage of Holy Week always affects me deeply as we journey with Jesus, standing at the foot of the cross, sitting in the silence of Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and acknowledging the weight of sorrow and uncertainty. It is an emotional rollercoaster, as the humanity of Jesus is laid bare.

But Easter doesn't leave us there.

As I explained to the children from St Gabriels school on Wednesday, on Easter Day we are met with hope that is both surprising and overwhelming. The risen Jesus greets the women with his reassuring presence, "Do not be afraid."

However, when we look around us today, it may seem that there is a lot about which we can be afraid.

I hope we can take comfort from the words of one of my heroes of faith, Desmond Tutu who writes, "Easter says to us that despite everything to the contrary, God's will for us will prevail, love will prevail over hate, justice over injustice and oppression, peace over exploitation and bitterness."

Love is stronger than death. He is risen, Alleluia! A very happy Easter to you all.

Rev Sarah



NEXT SUNDAY 12.04.26 *Second Sunday of Easter*

10.30am in the Church



OT 1 Peter 1: 3-9
NT Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
GOSPEL John 20: 19-end

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Day off: Monday

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St Thomas, Exeter

5th April 2026

Easter Day

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

267 Jesus Christ is risen today

14 All heaven declares

In Christ alone. Sheet attached

503 Thine be the glory

Thursday 9th April

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny Tuckett's house.

Friday 10th April

9.30am Morning Prayers

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 11th April

9am St Thomas Breakfast. Open to all at the Sawyers.



Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**

Colossians 3: 1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Matthew 28: 1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Post Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

A very happy Easter to you all! Thank you to all those who have made our church look so beautiful today and for all those who supported and prayed for our Holy Week services in church.

Rev Sarah

The **House Group** will meet on Tuesday 14th April.

With the **APCM** fast approaching it is time for the church electoral roll to be revised. If you are already on the roll and wish to remain there you don't need to do anything, but if you would like to be added or know of someone who may be interested please speak to Carolyn Bryant (Electoral Roll Officer), or Ian or Sarah after the service. Forms are available in church and Carolyn can be contacted on 07780 707183 if you have any questions. The forms should be returned by Sunday 12th April.

Please continue to hold our search for a new rector in your prayers and pray that the Lord will be calling the right person, preparing those who are involved in the selection process to have good judgement and discernment and that the Lord will prepare us to work with our new rector when they are installed later this year.

Exeter Pride is on Saturday 9th May.

Christians at Pride and Open Table Exeter will be participating in the March together with banners. Open Table will have a stand at the festival in Northernhay. Do join in! Email exeter@opentable.lgbt for more information.

