



The Parish Window

EASTER 2020

EASTER BRINGS

H O P E

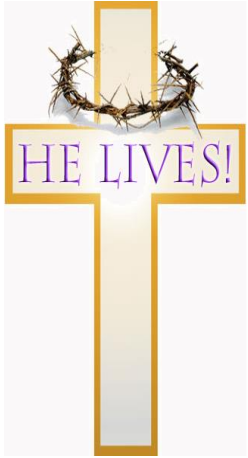
"In his great mercy he has given us
new birth into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ..."



CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH VILLAGE
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1 Peter 1:3

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR PAM



Some of the strangest pairing of phrases occurs at the Easter place, the garden, on Resurrection Sunday. Perhaps it is due to the upheaval caused by a close pairing of death and life itself. The women who came early to the tomb that first Easter morning must have been overwhelmed by the loss of a great teacher, a great friend and a great hope: the overwhelming acceptance, love and forgiveness of God. This, of course, all died when Jesus was crucified. It was snatched from them. And then, at the tomb they meet a messenger of good news. Matthew writes: having just learned from the angel that Jesus had been raised from the dead, "they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy". Fear and joy, a strange mix.

I just got off the phone from finding out that Altamont Community Care home has had a resident test positive with COVID19. There are two residents in Altamont that this church has been connected to pastorally, and I am grieved by this news. But I want to have hope. For them; for all of us, as we walk through the valley of the

shadow of death. Especially at Easter. I want to be more joyful than fearful. Is there something we can learn about how to live in the side-by-side reality of death and life, fear and joy?

The apostle Paul is able to bear the dichotomy (a contrast between two things, especially two opposed ideas). In 2 Corinthians 1, Paul writes: "we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired even of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope".

It is spelled out for us here. He manages, because he relies on God, who, he confesses, is so powerful that he can raise the dead. Paul elaborates. It is God who rescues us and God on whom we can set our hope. Paul is not dismissing the harsh realities of life, even life as a minister of the good news. His reliance on God helps him keep going.

When I was 21, one day I noticed that I had a lump in my neck. I was living in Waterloo at the time, having just finished university, when the Dr. told me that I would need to have a

biopsy. My first thought was, CANCER. As you can imagine, I was afraid! A few weeks would pass before the biopsy was to take place and I journeyed from faith to despair. Despair. A bleak destination with fear doing the driving and leading to a dead end. My faith in God had taken a back seat, or more likely, it was even further away, alongside the spare wheel in the trunk. I was already living like I had the sentence of death. The fear caused me to be drained of life. Cancer was not just the elephant in the room of my mind, it was a whole zoo. Then, one day, as the appointment got closer, I was waiting at the bus and I decided to talk to God about my fear. Really talk and really listen. A verse was brought to mind: "to live is Christ, to die is gain". I had lost sight that whether I lived or died I was God's. He loved me and He would take care of me. In that moment, I believed in the truth of this and life returned to me. Right there and then, regardless of the biopsy. Fear and death did not win.

Then, the night before I went for the biopsy, I asked my Bible Study group to pray/lay hands on me, which they gladly did.

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"It is spelled out for us here. He manages, because he relies on God, who, he confesses, is so powerful that he can raise the dead."

Ponderings continued...

The next day I actually had trouble finding the lump on my neck. I didn't think too much of it. When I went into the doctor's office he could not find the lump. Of course, he did not proceed with the biopsy and I have not had a problem with it since.

How do we rely on God who raises the dead? We do this by living. By not letting the fear of death take any space in our hearts. We keep giving our wayward hearts to the living God and asking for life, for the resurrection life of Jesus. I pray that we would have the grace to hold onto life, to be thankful for life, and live it as fully as possible, even in these times of physical distancing. Thank you God for being real. And for making a real difference in our lives.

Pairings. I am reminded that fear and trust are opposites. Trusting God is the antidote to fear. As we await the antidote to the virus, a needed vaccine, let God be the antidote to your fear.

Your Priest and Pastor
Pam



BUSY – BUSY

I am busy, busy, busy, said the bee, I shan't be home for dinner or for tea. It will take hours, hours and hours, to visit all these flowers, I am so busy, busy, busy, said the bee. (Something recited in school)

Coincidence or what that we are forced to slow down during this Lent? We now have more time to grow closer to our Lord. More time to read His word, more time to say prayers. No excuses now.

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Matthew 6:6: But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Prayer is our personal connection with God. Reading the Bible tells all we know about God and how He wants us to be.

Yes, this is so inconvenient for those who think that they need to be out there going at the speed of light. "At all times and in all places give thanks to the Lord". Stay strong, steadfast, and faithful because He is always with us even unto the ends of the earth is His promise to us.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is

lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:8

We have enough time on our hands to incorporate some of this into our day, our lives.

Jeanette Khan



And the Cock Crowed **by May Hill**

Our rooster crows at break of day.

A shrill and strident call.
He has no time for lie-a-beds –
His crowing wakes us all.

Our rooster heralds break of day;
Then thousand others too.
A lusty chorus in the dawn,
Their cock-a-doodle-do.

When roosters crow of break of day

I wonder, do they know
The solemn part one had to play
In Easter long ago?

Submitted by: The Rev'd
Canon J. Boutheon, Deacon



AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM FATHER ROY

+That morning – in the garden - Mary met the resurrected Jesus -recognizable –Jesus told his disciples, “I am going to prepare a place for you.” And he did – for them – and for our friends who have died – and for us. +++I’m not sure what that means to you – but let me tell you what it means to me. Death is not just the end of a physical life – it’s a momentary transition from one kind of life to another. My mother and father – Audrey’s mother and father – no longer live in this fragile island home we call ‘earth’ – they have moved into another of God’s spaces – where time and dimensions are different –we call that space heaven. And they are at rest. Then – on that final day – the Day of The Lord

–they-and we-shall be resurrected into what scripture calls “a new heaven and a new earth.” That’s part of what resurrection means to me – the promise of eternal life after earthly death. But it also means eternal life NOW.

+++Resurrection is a gift to us – of a new life. But it’s also an invitation – given personally by Jesus – for each one of us to be an active player in the continuing saga of God and his people. Not just to listen to the story of the resurrection – but to experience it in our own lives. Jesus asks us to celebrate Easter by becoming his earthly body in our world of today.

+ to travel the road of compassion that he travelled

+to make his footsteps our footsteps-his way our way.

+ to continue his journey of love, with him by our side.

++++Each step will be taken in faith –in a sure trust that God empowered Jesus to rise from the dead – that the strength of his resurrection can be our strength – that the power of the Holy Spirit is our power –that the wisdom of his teaching is our wisdom – that the peace of a full human life is our peace –that the joy which comes from his love, is our love. That is ‘eternal life now’ – given to us to share with Jesus – and with each other. Alleluia! The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!

And he’s here with us today!
AMEN.



Are you ready?

Easter Sunday marks the biggest celebration of the year for Christians. It is the very crux of our faith; without Easter, there would simply be no hope for everlasting life with God. On Easter, we celebrate Jesus' victory over death, his coming again into the world of the living. Yet, 40 days after the joyous celebration of His resurrection, Jesus ascended to Heaven (Acts 1:9). But before his ascension, Jesus promised he would come again (Mark 14:3).

Many over the years have tried to predict the day Jesus will return. Some enthusiastically predicted December 2012. But December 2012 came and went. Others now predict the end is drawing near and that the coronavirus pandemic only marks the beginning of it. But the truth is, try as we may, we will *never* be able to predict it for Jesus himself did not know (Mark 13:32). While the actual day and time may be shrouded by uncertainty, there is one thing we can be certain of: "we must prepare, for the Son of Man will come at an hour when [we] do not expect him" (Matthew 24:44). And when he returns, we will be going about life as usual. There will be weddings taking place, people eating and drinking, farmers plowing their fields; needless to say, we will all be caught off-guard (Matthew 24:36-44).

So if the clouds were to part today, and in a bright show of lights Jesus was to return at this very minute, what would our reaction be? Would we be the ones who would cry out "Lord, Lord!" and after one look at us, Jesus would say "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" (Matthew 7:21-23)? Or would we be the ones that Jesus would take with him, into his comforting arms?

To be sure that we are ready for Jesus' return, he himself tells us what we are to do: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). It is as simple as that.

So as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection this Easter, and as we wait for that day for him to come again, we must examine ourselves. Are we truly loving God with all our heart, with every aspect of our being? Are we truly loving our neighbours as ourselves, even when times are tough?

Are we ready?

R. Luther



EASTER

by Iris Hesselden

Easter blessings touch our hearts
As spring wakes all around.
New life is filling field and tree
With colour, light and sound.

Easter blessings, yours and mine,
As once more earth revives,
But most of all, the precious love
Which comforts all our lives.

The Easter message gives us hope,
We know love cannot die,
We keep the knowledge life goes on,
Though springtime passed by.

So share the healing and the joy,
It helps our spirits climb,
Go forward with a lighter heart,
Rejoice at Easter time.

**Submitted by: The Rev'd
Canon J. Boutheon, Deacon**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful
Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by His blood.

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! He is near us;
faith believes, nor questions
how.
Though the cloud from sight
received Him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget His
promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our
stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful
flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the
sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

SING OUT YOUR PRAISE AS WE PRAY



You came from heaven to
earth, to show the way

From the earth to the cross, my
debt to pay

From the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky

Lord I lift your name on high.



**Prayers of strength and
courage for all who are
actively involved in taking
care of others, and healing for
all the afflicted in this
pandemic.**

**Birthday & Anniversary
Blessings**
to everyone who has celebrated
since the last newsletter.
Special shoutout to David Moses
(75), James Yeo, & Dushy
Manickam

STILL IN CONTROL

How can I say it is well
When my voice can barely
speak?
How can I sing You a song
In the midst of suffering?
Jesus, will You meet me here?
Let Your peace wash over me
'Cause I need You now more
than ever
Teach my soul to sing

[Chorus]
My God is still in control
And still He reigns on His throne
Though mountains may tremble
and sea billows roll
I'll sing it is well with my soul
My God is still in control

You have not left me alone
Though the world has let me
down
All of my sorrow and pain
I will trade it for a crown
Thank You for staying with me
When the night was closing in
Whatever my lot, You are still
God
I will sing again (Cho).

Bridge]
And it is well with my soul
It is well with my soul
It is well with my soul
And it is well with my soul
It is well with my soul
It is well with my soul (Cho.)

Mack Brock

A MESSAGE WORTH REPEATING from The Rev'd Kirk A Kubicek

Unbind him, and let him go!

I will never forget listening to the entire Eleventh Chapter of John read at Philip Berrigan's funeral by his wife, Elizabeth McCalister, and feeling the danger and the risk Jesus took to go to Bethany to see a friend he loved buried in a cave while there were people nearby who wanted to do him harm, wanted to kill him. As the last reading of Lent before we enter Holy Week, this year we hear this story as we continue best practices during the Covid-19 Coronavirus outbreak: to Stay Home, and when we are out of the house to practice what our bishop likes to call Compassionate Distancing: Compassionate Distancing Saves Lives.

Although one might think the main character in this story is Lazarus who is raised from the dead, I'm not so sure. Or, Jesus, who, knowing the danger of those who want to kill him, still heading back to the region of Judea to be with the friend he loves at the request of the Bethany sisters, Martha and Mary. Or, maybe it is Thomas who urges his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." Or, is it the community that has been gathered in the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus to comfort and enter into the sadness, mourning and even anger the sisters experience at their brother's death and the fact that their friend Jesus had not come when first called. Or, is it those who rolled away the stone from the cave and eventually would unbind Lazarus from the burial cloths so reminiscent of the swaddling cloths Mary wrapped around her tiny baby, or the burial cloths Jesus would soon leave neatly folded in the burial cave of Joseph of Arimathea on the day of his resurrection. Or, is it everyone of them, and everyone of us?

We, who are now "bound" by restrictions that govern our freedom to move about; fears of

contagion; sadness and grief at the already monumental loss of life, and the knowledge that this is just the beginning. And beyond all of these things that bind us and keep us bound tight there are the questions: Why is this happening? What can be done? And worst of all, who can we/I blame for all of this? Why does God allow such things like Covid-19 Coronavirus to exist to disrupt our lives, our communities and the entire world?

We all want to hear the words, "Unbind us, and let us go...set us free!" When the way, the truth and the life of it, the one who is Resurrection and Life is the same one who in the story risks his own safety to be with us who, like Lazarus, like the sisters Martha and Mary, are bound up tight in their loss, sadness, fear, anger, grief and death.

Martha shows us a way. When she hears Jesus is at the edge of town, she gets up and leaves the care and comfort of the community surrounding her and marches out to meet Jesus where he is and lets him have it: If you had been here sooner, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him. We need to do this. We have to let it out and acknowledge our fear and our grief. If God in Christ is who we think he is, he can take it. He can take our anger, our sadness, our fear, our grief and hold it all, and transform it all as he does with Martha. He reminds her and us, "I am resurrection and I am life. Do you believe this?" Yes, she says, I believe you are the Christ! She binds herself unto God in Christ.



The power in this story is that it reminds us that **The promise of resurrection does not lie in some future event, but that in Christ and with Christ it is here, now.** Life is here now. Resurrection is here now. Christ is here now having burst the binding of his three-day prison. When the mystics among us remind us to Be Here Now, we are to remember Life and Resurrection are Now. And it is Martha, this practical woman of the household, who is first in John's story to proclaim in no ambiguous terms, Yes, Lord, I believe. We are to remember; we are all Martha. And in the midst of all our anger, fear, grief and uncertainty that for now forces us to live together in new ways, Christ who is Life, and Light, and Resurrection and Love is here now, if only we will Be Here Now and not let ourselves be distracted by the all the chaos and controversies keeping us from our experience of The Living God right where we are. **We need to Stay Calm, Stay Connected and Stay Church.** For it is as Jesus says at the beginning of the story: **God will be glorified by going to the heart of the suffering community.** He is already here and always has been. Instead of being bound by the chaos and danger and sorrow that surrounds, we need to roll away the stones that keep us in our caves, and bind ourselves to God in Christ.

One final thought. As I stood alone in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester, NY, there was a gigantic stained glass window of Charity: A woman like Martha, larger than life, striding forward as if out of the window, forward past all trouble, forward with Christ, and with a banner waving about her that proclaims, "Faith, Hope and Charity, abide these three, but the greatest of these is Charity!" Charity is the King James translation of Love – and reminds us that Love always means going beyond yourself to others, to otherness. That is how we are to be the character at the heart of this story and in this time in which we feel bound.

Allowing ourselves to be unbound allows us the freedom to think beyond ourselves and reach out in prayer and service to others who are also feeling bound up at this time.

Love alone overcomes fear and is the true foundation that lasts. Faith, hope and love, abide these three. But the greatest of these is

Love! Unbind us and set us free to bind ourselves unto God in Christ in Love and Charity!

(You can see more by The Rev'd Kubicek as well as his profile on his blog Sermons 'n' Things)

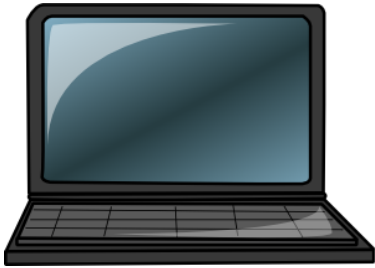
EASTER

word search

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Can you find these words?

EASTER	EGG HUNT	JELLYBEANS	RESURRECTION
BUNNY	BASKET	SPRING	SUNDAY
FUN	CANDY	GRASS	MARCH
HE IS RISEN	CHOCOLATE	GAMES	



CCSV QUARANTINE CHURCH SERVICES

For those who are able to be online, I hope that you have enjoyed the services/resources that have been provided on our website at www.christchurchscarborough.com

We will continue to provide a Sunday service. In order to have a greater variety of voices, we are asking for your participation. If you have a phone that has recording capability and, if you are able to record yourself doing the Scripture reading or the prayers, please let Pastor Pam know by emailing ptrondson@gmail.com. Thanks to all who have made the online services possible!



CCSV Deacon's Cupboard

While several food banks in our area are presently closed, the CCSV food bank is OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

Our volunteers are there on Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 10.30 to offer mostly non-perishable food items and other supplies (read: toilet paper) to those who find themselves in need at the moment through loss of work or other unexpected circumstances.

As we expect that demand will rise over time, we are also happy to accept donations in cash or in kind to help support this increasingly vital ministry. For more information, call Deacon Jacquie at 416 264-4726 or jacquie.boutheon@sympatico.ca.



JUST A THOUGHT...

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Ellen Cunningham

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.christchurchscarborough.com

It's Eastertide 2020...the joy of the resurrection abounds with flowers bloom, bells ringing, frilly hats, shouts of Alleluias, of Hosannas.

But does it though? Maybe, and Yes, because we cannot and should not allow ourselves to forget the Christ, the cross, the tomb, the rolled stone, the debt Jesus paid.

In this time of covid-19 our 'live' worship services come to us via Zoom, Facebook, Pastors in empty churches, and connections made possible through tech savvy musicians and friends in their homes and studios with broadcasts on Instagram and other social media outlets. We cannot deny that we are happy with all these pop-up 'churches without walls', **but how exactly are you feeling**...feeling about Covid-19, isolation, social distancing, the increase in cases, the physical and all the 'other' deaths that are the worrying accompanying of this pandemic?

Here is an honest answer from a friend whose family is going through a lot right now, 'It's crazy, I hate it,...' We are often afraid to say how we really feel because there will be a firestorm about lack of faith plus some. But why should we not say how we feel. Sorry to disappoint you, but it is not about faith, it's about honesty, something God delights in.

In a sermon from the Rev'd Kirk A Kubicek, I originally viewed/listened to on The Daily Office.org. on Sunday March 29, the author in a message entitled '**Unbind him, and let him go!**', spoke on the gospel story of the raising of Lazarus. (see pg. 7)

In it we are reminded of both Martha's **action** – going to meet

Jesus, and **words**, "**If you had been here sooner, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.**"

This message brought to the forefront of my thoughts, words from Bp Howard Gregory, long ago embedded in my heart. In an address, he encouraged his audience to tell God what we are feeling be it grief or any other challenging situation, with the understanding that He can deal with whatever we throw at Him and will not run away from us.

When fear or any other emotion creeps in, I am not afraid to cry out to God in my version of Psalm 22 and ask, 'where are you, don't you see, what am I to do?' He knows I am worried about big stuff and small stuff,- my family and yours too, our lunch guests, and a ton of other things, but I also know that he speaks to the winds and the waves and they obey Him.

How are you feeling about the current situation brought on by Covid-19...enter 'the war room' if needed, tell God, if it's anger, or fear; make your petition(s), with thanks. He wants to hear from you, He is listening. He can and will handle it for you and for Him.

**Let not this pandemic rob you of the joy of Easter.
Be Safe. Be kind. Be thankful.
Be blessed.**

Thanks to all our contributors to this edition of the Parish Window.

HAPPY EASTER!

Hyacinth

