



Dear Friends in Christ,

EASTER 2020

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I write to you today to share the hope of our Easter faith. I wish we could all be together to share our Easter Alleluias. I pray we will be able to meet when all the injunctions have been lifted and we are safe to worship together.

In the meantime I am blessed to have had many conversations with you through the telephone and to produce worship services on YouTube. I pray this has been a valuable resource to you. These new methods of being Church give us the opportunity to stay connected as the Body of Christ. Our care for one another and the wider community unites us as a loving, prayerful, and supportive disciples of Jesus Christ.

One of the Easter hymns speaking to me this time of the year is; "Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er, the battle is done; now is the victor's triumph won; O let the song of praise be sung: Alleluia!"

We are in the midst of a battle called the Covid-19 pandemic. Our medical personnel, researchers, front line workers and many many others, including our politicians strive to combat this virus. We also have our responsibility to do what is necessary and may even be inconvenient to our lifestyles. I pray we all take the necessary precautions for our well-being and the care of others. Prayers, along with social distancing, washing hands and staying home can prevent the virus spreading.

The Easter hymn I mentioned above keeps the flame of hope alive, the great battle of evil has been won! "Death's mightiest powers have done their worst, and Jesus hath his foes dispersed; let shouts of praise and joy outburst: Alleluia!"

Our journey this Lent has been a longer period in the desert. The movement always draws us to the Cross and beyond to the Empty Tomb. A human journey filled with fear, anxiety, panic and isolation. It gives us the invitation to walk with Jesus through his trials, crucifixion and death. Jesus identifies with our humanness and by the grace of God leaves us not desolate and opens the way to Resurrection.

Alleluia! We are an Easter People! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

My prayers are with you and I long for the day when we are able to be together.

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You are always welcome to keep in touch with me.

In Christ,
[+Barry Clarke](#)