

Today, as we gather to celebrate Easter, we come together with hearts full of anticipation and joy. Easter is not just a historical event; it's a living reality that continues to shape our lives and our faith journey. Together, today, we proclaim with confidence:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

But, what do we mean by this Easter greeting and acclamation of praise?

Amongst the brokenness of our world today, how does the resurrection of Jesus impact our lives?

How is this event hope not only for us today but for tomorrow too?

In the book, 'An African Prayer Book' Desmond Tutu prayed:

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death;  
Victory is ours through God who loves us.

In this prayer, Tutu describes the absence of goodness as being evil. Evil is described as hate, darkness and death.

As created beings, we were created with choices. In our everyday lives we are making choices in every moment of living. Tutu, in his prayer, holds all our choices at the centre of two paths. Love or hate.

We can choice whether to love or to hate.

To live lives that offer light, hope and comfort to others or we can choose to live in darkness, a place of hopelessness and desolation.

We can seek a life for all that is flourishing, or we can keep people in a place of struggle and fear.

The opposite to a flourishing life for all, is described in the bible as death and dying. This is opposite to life in its fullness that Jesus proclaims is available in the present, in the here and the now.

Jesus showed us what God was like, and in doing this we learnt there is nothing in this world that can separate us from God's love. Nobody, or nothing that God has created is forsaken. With the love of God, shown in the life of Jesus as being filled with goodness and possibility.

Goodness and evil;

Love and hate;

Light and darkness;

Life and death;

Are realities of our world, of our lives and in the midst of life's trials and challenges, Easter offers us hope. The incarnation, death and resurrection assure us that God is present with us in our struggles, offering comfort, strength, and guidance. No matter what we face, we can trust in God's faithfulness and provision.

But it is also, much more than this. For goodness, love, light and life don't just co-exist alongside the challenges, the empty tomb stands as a testament to the defeat of death, of darkness and of evil by the power of God.

Jesus, who was crucified and buried, conquered death, and emerged victorious on the third day, reminds us of the transformative power of resurrection. In a world filled with brokenness, pain, and despair, the resurrection of Jesus offers hope and renewal. It is a powerful reminder that God's love and grace

will have the final say, that life in God will have victory over darkness and death.

The death of Jesus encompasses evil, hate, darkness and death and holds them in the transforming life of God who is love, light and life. And it is through these things in the resurrection of Jesus, where victory over them is found. Resurrection is God saying victory is ours because love will have the final say.

The empty tomb symbolising the defeat of death and the ultimate triumph of goodness over evil. Jesus, who was crucified by the forces of darkness, emerged victorious demonstrating not only victory but God's unfathomable love for humanity, revealing the depths of God's love for you and for me.

As followers of Christ, we live in eager anticipation of the day when we will experience the fullness of resurrection glory. A time when

we will know the fullness of God's victory on earth.

As we continue to navigate the uncertainties of life, let us hold fast to the hope that Easter brings. For it is a hope that transcends all circumstances. It is a hope that anchors our being in the unchanging promises of God.

In our broken world, the Easter hope is a stark reminder that we too need to face and act against the adversities and injustices of our world. As Easter people, children of resurrection we can with courage and conviction stand firm in the assurance that Easter's victory empowers us to live and work as agents of change and ambassadors of Christ's love in the world.

Like the disciples over two thousand years ago, we are today called to be witnesses of the resurrection, proclaiming the victory of Christ to

a world in need of hope. Our lives are a testimony to the transformative power of resurrection, sharing the same commissioned to share this message with others.

For the story of Easter isn't only the story of God's love and victory, it is also our story. It is a human story of how we can live life in its fullness. When we sing, Alleluia! Christ is Risen! we are saying, this is our story, this is our song.

The impacts of the resurrection of Jesus, is that we are to respond to it in the same act of love that has been showed to us by being people of goodness, love, light and life in the world.

So, as we celebrate Easter today, let us rejoice in the victory already won for us through the empty tomb.

May we remember that the resurrection of Jesus is not merely a historical event but a

present reality that transforms our lives and empowers us to live victoriously.

As I draw to a close, I invite you to

Imagine for a moment what the resurrection of Jesus and the prayer of Desmond Tutu would look like if they were lived out in our world today.

Goodness is stronger than evil;

Love is stronger than hate;

Light is stronger than darkness;

Life is stronger than death;

Victory is ours through God who loves us.

Now, wouldn't that be something to sing Alleluia too!



May we embrace the resurrection power that conquers evil and death, trusting in the promises of God and sharing the good news with boldness and with joy.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

Amen