

**THE GOOD NEWS**---Jesus Lives Today **EASTER SUNDAY** April 12, 2020 BWPC

SCRIPTURE: John 20:1-18

Christ spoke my name:  
“Mary”.

And I experienced resurrection.

It is that same Christ who commissioned me  
to go and tell.

So I am here--  
I have not gone away,  
I will not go away.  
As long as anyone, anywhere, is  
    rejected  
    cast aside  
    spat upon  
by the world—or,  
worse still,  
    by the church--  
    I am here  
to proclaim the same truth  
once told to me:

**Christ Jesus is risen for you,  
and calls you by name.**

Let no one  
no one  
ever tell you otherwise.  
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(from “Easter” by Donald Schmidt)

Hallelujah Jesus is alive!      The theme today is “The Power Of Presence”

Easter Sunday is the most important day in the Christian calendar. As I write to you on this special day, everything is most strange. Here we are in isolation—not able to gather and sing together:

**“ Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give thanks to the risen Christ.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name.**

Jesus is Lord of all the earth, first born of all creation.

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah!**

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour.

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name”. (VU 179)**

Some would say that Christmas is the most important day. Certainly popular culture has made Christmas the day of the year—everyone loves a baby—and the gifts of course!

The cross & crucifix haven't entered the pop culture in the same way—except perhaps in the form of Easter bunnies & Easter egg hunts.

But Easter—truly **Easter is the most significant day**, with the death & resurrection of Jesus.

We are responding. We are the practicing Christians ---Easter's where its at. We are truly celebrating Jesus is alive today!

Personnally--I firmly believe that! —Jesus lives ! Jesus lives today!

Paul writes: “I am convinced that that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord”. (*Romans 8:38, 39*)

Well-- how DO we refer to Christ on this Easter Day? For me, Jesus is Lord—Jesus is always the Saviour—the one who helps me in all challenges, who promises to always be there. I do believe the promise that **there is life after death**.

In this Holy One, I have absolute trust in. —always the way—the guide—the Prince of Peace—Emmanuel—God with us. We celebrate THE POWER OF PRESENCE.

I like so much Charles Wesley's very concise statement:

“The “best of all—is God is with us”.

**Hallelujah! —Jesus lives today.**

In my time off I read a very insightful book entitled Don't Worry Be Hopey—a take off on Don't worry—Be Happy—Don't worry Be hopey--as in hopeful. The subtitle is “Inspiring stories for making the most of each moment”. It is written by Peter Betts—born in the UK—London England . He likes now to be know as Ajahn Brahm. He's embraced both Christianity & Buddhism--the gospels of Love is what he calls them..

I think it's true that when we listen to others tell their faith story—often it enlightens us to where we are in our faith story—how is our relationship with God—with the holy & the sacred in our lives. Do you feel close to God? Are you letting God into your life? Is the sacred there?

The chapters in this book are just 1 —maybe 2 pages long. One that I liked very much was entitled: “God in Christianity & God in Buddhism”.

This is what he says about his faith: “Many people today do not adhere to organized religion. But everyone is searching for God. We all want love, peace, compassion, —truth, respect, forgiveness, and unconditional love. And that is what **GOD IS** —love, peace, compassion,—truth, respect, forgiveness, and unconditional love”.

As Christians, we find this is fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ.

I'm sure there are people in your life who have shown you “the Christ”--these “gifts”of compassion, forgiveness and unconditional love that are revealed to us in the Saviour.

Today, we proclaim: **Jesus is alive. Hallelujah!**

I remember especially my mother who when she was 89 broke her hip and lay in pain in the hospital awaiting an operation. --My husband, our 2 sons and their wives & myself were all gathered around her bed. She was quite deaf at this point and I hollered to her,

“Mom, are you OK?” She suddenly had a cute little smile & said,

“Of course, I'm OK. ---

I have all of you with me”

She knew the power of presence –and always drew her strength from the Holy One. --  
”The Lord is my Shepherd” was one of her favourites.

TODAY:

“We shall go out with hope of resurrection

We shall go out from strength to strength go on

We shall go out and tell our stories boldly

Tales of a love that will not let us go.

We’ll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted

We’ll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed

We’ll weave a cloth of all the world united within the vision of new life in Christ.

We’ll give a voice to those who have not spoken

We’ll find the words for those whose lips are sealed

We’ll make the tunes for those who sing no longer

Expressive love alive in every heart.

We’ll share our joy with those who still are weeping

Raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief

We’ll leap and dance the resurrection story

Including all in circles of our love” . (VU 586 )

Amen

\*\*\* Remember:

to wash your hands, stay home, keep 2 m. away from others

-& be kind to yourself & others.

Shalom,

Annalee

P. S.---See More---

Dear Friends,

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the GOOD NEWS series which I plan to continue as long as the COVID keeps us isolated.

The plan is to use the LECTIIONNARY scriptures each week to send out a message, prayers, and Merry Hearts.

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please let me know—

text/cell 519365 5511 or email [kerr.annalee@gmail.com](mailto:kerr.annalee@gmail.com) .

Be sure to check with the person before you put their name forward. If you prefer to be on the private list that’s OK too. Just let me know what is best.

Would you look over all the email list and let me know if someone has been missed. Send me their email if you have it—or their address. About 10 letters will be sent out each week to those who don't have an email.

PRAYERS:

Dorothy Vogt  
Lisa (Downie) Power  
Corinna Asdal  
Donna Jewett  
Larry Saylor  
Shirley Bolton  
Deb Griffith  
Luis Pereira


All who are dealing with COVID-19 & taking precautions.  
The front line workers, cashiers, PSW's doctors, nurses & others who are working to keep us safe & healthy.

For the MERRY HEART:

**I've eaten 14  
meals and  
taken 6 naps  
and it's still  
today. are you  
kidding me**



**Sitting on the couch & my husband sweetly whispered.. "The best part about all of this is that I get to spend more time with you" as I looked over at him lovingly I realized he was talking to the dog not me**



**I miss the days when we were terrified of Romaine Lettuce.**

#Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We're told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.