



1 Peter 1:3: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Picture from flowerinfo.org



Trinity Methodist Church Woking
Easter 2020

Dear Friends,

Whilst tidying the garden recently I made an unexpected and delightful discovery. In a sheltered corner, abandoned since I moved in last August, amongst a pile of weed-infested, disused pots, I found a long-forgotten, unseen pasque flower blooming its little heart out! These purple star-shaped, anemone-like flowers get their name from their tendency to bloom around Easter (Passion) time. This one had not only survived the heat and drought of last summer, followed by the extreme water-logging wetness of last autumn and winter, but also my total neglect before and after the move. And yet, it's producing the best flowers and foliage it ever has! Inspired by this heartening discovery, I also found a number of other forgotten plants, some still in their original packaging, clinging to life and likely to thrive with a bit of TLC.

What an Easter parable! In dark and difficult times, when we have all but given up hope, we can so easily forget that the creative power of God is still working, unseen, in the chaos and mess of a world marred by human sin and self-absorption. Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion left his first followers demoralised by the apparent tragic end of the grand Messianic mission in which they had been enlisted. Their hopes and dreams of sharing the Messiah's glorious triumph now dashed, the future stretched ahead, seemingly bleak and hopeless. The best they could hope for was a return to the old life.

And yet, just as the sun continues to shine, even when we can't see its brightness or feel its warmth, so God not only continues to be present with us, but is also working out his good purposes for us and all creation. However, we human beings seem to mess things up. Amazingly God's salvation plan is not worked out despite us, but through the best of what we can offer in his service.

As God's people, the body of Christ in the world, what can we offer to our nation and to the peoples of the world in this time of crisis? Practical help, of course, where possible; love and compassion. But also we can hold up a beacon of hope – real hope, not fake optimism. For we are 'an Easter people risen with Christ' [Brian Hoare]. As an Easter people we are acutely aware, not only of suffering, crucifixion and death, but also of resurrection, as the saving ways of God. We trust, prayerfully, in God's almighty power to bring light from darkness, joy from sorrow, good from evil, and life from death. After this crisis is over let us pray that all humanity will have learned some lasting lessons, which will help us live in the light of resurrection hope.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Every Blessing

Jackie (Rev Jackie Case)