

2019-04-21 Ali Cooper

Easter Day 8.00am: Luke 24: 1 - 12

Today we are celebrating together the most glorious feast in the Christian year – Easter day. As post-resurrection people, we know what happened three days after the crucifixion; we know that Christ is risen – alleluia!

When the women reach the garden, there is terrible confusion – the stone has been rolled away from the tomb. The burial place is exposed, the body gone... The anointing, their remaining gift of devotion denied...

And the angels greet them with this cryptic question – why do you look for the living amongst the dead? He is not here. He is risen, he is risen...

Perhaps we started our journey to seek the risen Christ where he walks on this earth many years ago, or just yesterday, a bit in the dark, a bit lost, not knowing where our faith (such as it is) might lead us. We have travelled with our questions, our pot of something sweet in our hands to show our devotion, maybe our empty hands as we need to receive hope, with maybe our glimmers of joy now and then which have kept us on the path.

What happened two thousand years ago that dark, quiet, chilly morning? It is a profound mystery. Perhaps we are as perplexed as were those women. But I urge you to also love not having the answers – who wants all the answers?

I encourage you to keep seeking, to stay on the path. As it was for his followers, growing faith takes time, it takes questions, it takes looking in the wrong places sometimes, as indeed did these women who loved him. And so we're here to keep each other company, and to hearten each other as we look for signs of glory on earth, in our lives.

I believe that Easter is such a transforming moment in the story of the human race that the earth and its people were imbued with a wonder and curiosity that will go on for eternity. And so it's more than worth our preparations, our dedication and celebration today.

Somehow today Jesus is amongst us, look around you - see him in each other, because just like the angels of God, he wears many faces. His Spirit is restless and stirs us up to walk with him; He is risen and waiting for you and me. Shall we go with him...? Alleluia...