

Happy Easter!

## **Two short videos from me this Sunday.**

The first is based heavily on something that Thom M Shuman, a poet and Presbyterian minister from Ohio wrote - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8a6wIDaX1o&t=35s>.

The second is my thoughts for Easter Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFO-cJfQYEM>. (You can also read it below.)

*(And if you want a third, here is a telling of the resurrection from Matthew 28:1-10 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pbwhs-2Fngk>.)*

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## **An Easter thought**

Some churches have wondered if they should postpone Easter until life is back to 'normal'? How can they celebrate when society is in lockdown?

But No! We can't and shouldn't delay Easter until things are fine and hunky-dory. We need to show what the Resurrection means in a world that is struggling.

The disciples were struggling. Jesus' death meant that their world had fallen apart. And it was the woman who braved a visit to the tomb. Only to display that Jesus was not there. The angel told them, "He is risen."

In a world of pain and suffering, the news of Easter is that there is hope.

In a world of sickness and grief, the news of Easter is that there will be life.

In a world of fear and isolation, the news of Easter is that there is love.

The two Marys did not know it, the disciples had no idea of what would happen (even though Jesus had told them repeatedly that he would die and on the third day would be raised). In fact, they had to see it for themselves, as the Gospels record that Jesus appeared to them time and time again. They went forward in faith, in the face of opposition and persecution, and the Church was born. And the rest, they say, is history.

Some say that we are living in a Good Friday world. But I am not so sure. There are signs of Easter in it – acts of love and kindness, signs of hope and life.

Easter is there when the country stands on its doorstep to applaud those who serve. Easter is there when a lonely person is phoned. Easter is there when a key worker is ushered to the front of the queue at a supermarket. Easter is there when two strangers share a wave or smile from a safe distance.

Where will you see Easter this week? Look out with your eyes, listen out with your ears and give thanks for it.

And where will you be Easter this week? For if our faith in the risen Christ means anything, we are called to live our lives as Easter people in a world that needs love, compassion and hope. Now, more than ever.

The ancient Easter greeting is "Alleluia! Christ is risen." To which the reply is "He is risen indeed. Alleluia!". May our words, our behaviour and our actions bear witness to that he is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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## **Prayer**

Jesus Christ, we greet you!  
Your hands still have holes in them,  
your feet are wet from the dew;  
and with the memory of our names  
undimmed by three days of death  
you meet us risen from the grave.  
We fail to understand how:  
we puzzle at the reason why.  
But you have come:  
not to answer our questions,  
but to show us your face.  
YOU ARE ALIVE AND THE WORLD CAN REJOICE.  
HALLELUJAH! AMEN.  
(from *Stages on the Way*, Wild Goose Publications (1998))

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**19 April Bible readings:** John 20:19-31; 1 Peter 1:3-9

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Take care, stay safe and God bless