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Service: 12 April 2020 (Easter Sunday)

Rev. Jannet Mudavanhu

## "Christ is for Sharing"

Watch on YouTube: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#)

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### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate!  
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing!  
Christ is Risen: The tomb is empty!  
Glory and Power are His forever and ever.  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### **HYMN:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbBOOmKMLmI>

Thine be the Glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won;  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away  
Kept the folded grave clothes, where thy body lay,  
*Thine be the Glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord is living, death has lost its sting.

*Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:

Bring us safe through to Jordan to thy home above.

*Refrain*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND ADORATION**

Gracious and loving God,

We come before you this morning with our prayers of thanksgiving and adoration.

We are thankful for you have taken us this far, enabling us to celebrate Easter for another year.

We feel, in the joys of Easter spirit our hearts are illuminated once more, with your loving kindness.

Though we fall short in many way, you embrace us as we are

As we celebrate your resurrection today, we are reminded once more, of the hope that there is in you.

Strengthen us, Lord, so that our hope in you remains unshaken.

We pray that, you attune our minds, to the sound of your voice, so that we can hear you when you speak to us.

We also pray that you continue to direct our steps, and lead us in the paths you wish us to follow, especially in the days ahead;

Grant that we, who celebrate with joy this day of your resurrection, May be raised from the death of our overwhelming life experiences through your life-giving Spirit.

We bring before you Lord, all the nations of the world fighting against Covid19 epidemic. We need Divine intervention Lord.

May you grand wisdom to all health care professionals, that through you, cure for this virus is found.

We remember before you all those working in essential services, protect, strengthen and bless them in your own special way.

We remember before you all the children from our church who have brought their prayers before, as they wrote them on the cross before us— Lord hear their prayers.

Let our celebrations today, raise us up, strengthen us, renew our lives and challenge us to have the confidence of sharing you with others.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**BIBLE READING:** *Mathew 28: 1-10*

## **CHRIST IS FOR SHARING**

**(Read by Loopy Church)** *(adapted from Robert J. Anderson's Hymn: Share Christ)*

We are an Easter People!

Share – Share – the Resurrected Christ!

Share Christ, who is our friend and guide.

Share Christ, who is forever by our side.

Share Christ, and wonder of his love,

Share Christ, our advocate and redeemer

Share Christ, our Prince of Peace

Share Christ, who bids our fears cease.

Share Christ, the victor over the grave,

Share Christ, who came the world to save,

Share Christ, who is our Hope and Joy,

Share Christ, his praise our lives employ.

Share Christ, Share Christ! All you Easter people!

Around the world this message ring!

Only as we share Christ, we get to meet Him more!

## **REFLECTION**

**THEME: DO NOT BE AFRAID – GO AND SHARE.**

They saw Jesus arrested. They saw Him beaten. They saw Him falsely accused. They saw Him sentenced to death. And they saw Him die.

Now arriving at the tomb where he was laid, to offer their last act of love - the miracle of miracles unfolded - they saw Jesus alive! He is risen indeed – death couldn't hold him down! Death did not have the last word!

Imagine the scene at the empty tomb – these two women must have been so terrified visiting the tomb after such a tense situation in Jerusalem. All their hopes - seemingly shattered; all their dreams –

seemingly crushed – with the city’s atmosphere still gloomy and depressing – with the disciples in lockdown fearing for their lives. What a depressingly hopeless situation it was.

We can all relate to that, especially in our time as we together with professional in different fields of thought – unite in the fight for corona virus. Just like the disciples, we are staying away – lockdown in our ‘bubbles’. The atmosphere out there is not that cheerful – it is gloomy. We can all relate to what must have been going through their minds.

However, it is important for us to take note of what we can learn from the Easter message. From all the learning points, I have decided to share on a couple:

That while **on one hand** at times, evidence of death, evidence of hard times, evidence of dark times in our lives, can seem more pervasive than evidence of life. At times evidence of our difficult situations, can cloud rays of light that might still be shining. When we feel that our life has been so broken, it is difficult to see any light that might be filtering through the cracks. **On the other hand**, the Easter message also remind us that despair and darkness does not have the last word! Even our seemingly shuttered dreams can be put together again if we keep going back to him like what the women did on that morning. Sure, at times we struggle, just as Jesus did but with Christ, those sufferings will not win.

Our faith journey calls us to patiently walk with Jesus, through the trials, crosses and sufferings of life, with hope and trust in Him. To keep trusting in the ongoing gift of His Divine presence. The Easter message is that, there is no one – there is no situation, that is beyond the grace, mercy and love of God.

As we grapple with the challenges of coronavirus and the issues that are rising as a result of this pandemic; As we grapple with our own personal fears and challenges - may we be encouraged by the Easter message that **WE WILL RESSURECT** out of these situations just as Jesus resurrected. **WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE – a people of hope beyond hope**, a people of **Faith** and it is in this truth, where the reasonableness of our Christian faith rests. We, therefore, rejoice that our hard times and pain, like His, will be overcome! Therefore, I encourage us all, to maintain our **HOPE IN CHRIST**, even when all seems lost.

**WITH CHRIST – DARKNESS ALWAYS LOSE** in the end! The challenge for us, is to **remain steadfast in our HOPE IN HIM who conquered darkness.**

**This Easter let's dare to believe the impossible.** Let's dare to believe that just as Jesus rose from the dead, we will also rise from our dark times and our dark places and emerge even stronger. Let's dare to believe that the words spoken to the women at the tomb, also speaks to us: **DO NOT BE AFRAID – BUT GO AND TELL THAT I AM ALIVE!**

Let us cling to that resurrection message and strive to share it. Nothing should keep us from the joy that God wants to give us – not even the darkest of our darkest times! As Christ rose from the darkness of the tomb, we shall also arise from our dark life situations. Therefore, do not be afraid but instead go and share this good news. **Amen.**

## **HYMN**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9khJXoL9QGk>

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious king, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is your sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once He all us save, Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Him raise, Alleluia!  
Christ hath opened paradise Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alle-Alleluia!

## **SENDING FORTH**

Christ is risen – We will raise from our dark days  
Christ has gone before us – Let us share the hope we have in Him.  
Dance; celebrate; sing; shout with joy and share Christ!  
**Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!**