

An Easter reflection

I'm writing this sat in the carpark at the Nightingale Hospital in East London.

This is the strangest run up to Easter I can ever remember. I saw someone refer to it on social media as the Lentiest Lent ever. Lent that time of penitence and reflection, some people giving things up or engaging in community or ecological endeavours. This year it has been forced upon us all. Rethinking our lives and rethinking and reimagining how we worship on how we do Church.

It is really surreal as we approach Holy Week knowing that we won't be waving our palm crosses on Palm Sunday, or joining together for the moving foot washing service on Maundy Thursday, no walk of witness and no joining together on Easter Sunday to worship together as we celebrate the Risen Lord.

Easter is the centre piece of our faith. Holy week is a time where we share in the pain of the Passion story with the joy of knowing the outcome. Currently we are in the midst of a Global Pandemic, we don't know how this will end. It can be tough finding God in the midst of this as we lose friends, family or loved ones. But the Easter story should give us hope, we will get through this with Jesus walking alongside us.

However dark it gets Christ will be the light in the darkness that gets us through these difficult times. I have seen God in this tragedy – the acts of kindness being carried out in the community, the sharing of messages between one another, the Church learning new ways to allow us to worship together on line. It has been humbling to see the outpouring of love for the NHS, even the give peas a chance bridge on the M25 has had a NHS makeover.

These are all glimpses of God in our midst.

I also know how difficult it must be for people who can't be with their loved ones when they are in hospital. I take comfort in knowing that Christ is there, weeping with us and comforting our loved ones. We know at this time of year how Jesus rose in glory as he conquered death and as those who die during this pandemic will finally rest in peace and rise in glory to share at the heavenly banquet.

This is a huge human tragedy but we must take comfort that Christ is with us and as we come together to virtually celebrate Easter we celebrate the Risen God.

Alleluia Alleluia

I leave an extract from Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.[a]

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

God Bless

Simon

