



I am the
Resurrection
and the Life.
Easter 2019

Dear Friends,

Our Gospel reading for Easter Sunday this year is from John 20 and gives us the account of the resurrection from the perspective of the disciple John. John, in referring to himself in the account, describes himself as the “one who Jesus loved” and the one who beat Peter in a race to get to the empty tomb first. In fact, the opening of the account is full of racing – Mary to tell the disciples the tomb is empty, and Peter and John running to see this reality for themselves. The pace of the narrative changes after Peter and John go home and leave Mary by herself weeping. We then enter in to this intimate moment of confusion as Mary mistakes Jesus for a gardener and then realizes who it is when he addresses her as Mary.

We experience the risen Lord in such contrasting ways. Some of us, like Peter and John, experience and know the resurrection in the midst of our frenetic lives as we run from one thing to another trying to keep up with whatever life throws at us next. There might be a sense of certainty and clarity – as there was for Peter – of a solid belief as we encounter this new reality. Others of us, like Mary, encounter the risen Lord in the midst of our tears and loss, and misunderstanding contrasted with deep recognition.

The resurrection, like faith in general, is not something we can package and parcel, standardize or dictate an outcome for. The reality of the resurrection is so profoundly individualized to our own encounter of the risen Lord in this life and the next. And God, graciously, enters into our lives as the resurrected Lord in ways that are so profoundly unique to us.

However you journey through this Easter season, my hope and prayer is that you might find the truth of the resurrection in your own unique way as you encounter the risen Lord. And as God, in Christ, graciously enters into your life afresh, you may respond with hope to his offer of new life.

I hope you have a blessed Easter.

Yours
Simon +

Rev. Simon Bell
Incumbent