

EASTER Sunday 2025

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Reflecting on the Resurrection

Thank you for joining me on this Easter morning. I hope this short reflection will help you in your thinking about Christ's resurrection, and what it means for you and me.

I'd like to begin my reflection with a quote from Richard Rohr, an American Franciscan Friar, author and spiritual writer. Like many others, I follow his blog. What Richard Rohr has to say about the resurrection certainly resonates with me. I hope it does with you. He begins with a short commentary on Colossians 3:3-4. Listen, or read what he has to say about this passage.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory. - Colossians 3:3-4

'In the larger-than-life, spiritually transformed people I have met, I always find one common denominator: in some sense, they have all died before they died. They have followed in the self-emptying steps of Jesus, a path from death to life that Christians from all over the world celebrate this week.

At some point, such people were led to the edge of their private resources, and that breakdown, which surely felt like dying, led them into a larger life. *They broke through in what felt like breaking down.* Instead of avoiding a personal death or raging at it, they went through a death of their old, small self and came out the other side knowing that death could no longer hurt them. This process of transformation is known in many cultures as initiation. For many Christians, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the preeminent example of this pattern. Following Jesus, we need to *trust the down, and God will take care of the up. Although even there, we still must offer our yes.*' - Richard Rohr

Easter is the most important day of the Christian year. One third of the gospel narratives are taken up with holy week, culminating in the death and resurrection of Jesus. One reason why the gospels have survived for two millennia is that the pattern of dying and rising has continued to resonate with ordinary people, as Richard Rohr describes so well in his commentary.

How many of us have been, *'led to the edge of our private resources, and that breakdown, which surely felt like dying...?*

When we look at the characters involved in the resurrection story, we see that all of them have reached that place in their lives and through their relationship with Christ have had their lives transformed and resurrected.

The two disciples who ran to the tomb, Peter and 'the other disciple' (probably John who wrote the gospel of John), Mary Magdalene – were all 'recipients' if you like, of a new beginning, of a 'resurrection' in their lives, after reaching 'the edge of their private resources'.

From the places of disappointment they were resurrected to a place of new beginnings.

I would like to share a final story which I also hope will resonate with you, as you reflect on the story of what it means to live a resurrected life.

In 1955, C.S. Lewis wrote a semi-biographical book called, 'Surprised by Joy'. In his book he described his first arrival at the Oxford train station and his walk from the station in search of the college where he was about to begin his studies.

Because he didn't know Oxford at all, he headed in the wrong direction, away from the town of Oxford. As he began to walk up one of the sloping roads away from the town, he suddenly looked back and saw the famous 'shining spires' of the Oxford, and realised he was headed in the wrong direction. He used that experience as a metaphor for his life and his conversion from atheism to Christianity. It is sometimes only as we look backwards, that we see the glory of God's work in our lives leading us from a place of death to a new beginning.

Each one of us has a story. I hope your story is an Easter story - one of hope and resurrection!

May God bless us all and give us the gift of resurrection, in this life and in the life to come...

I'd like to conclude this reflection with an Easter Affirmation. I hope the sentiments and thoughts contained in the affirmation will resonate with you as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection.

We Are An Easter People

We carry a great and wonderful secret

One that shapes our lives and the essence of who we are

We are people who know that death is not the end

Nothing truly ends at death,

**But instead becomes part of a newer life.
We are a people who know
That the end of life is the beginning of a new life.
And that nothing is permanent, not even death
Death is ended and we are made new
If anyone is in Christ, he or she is already a new creation
The old has passed away, the new has come.
We are an Easter people,
Who rejoice in the new life which God gives in Christ
We rejoice in the life of God who is all around us
And within us.
We give praise to our Lord, who became one of us
Lived and died and rose again.
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**