

Hope in Uncertain Times by Nigel Coles Easter Sunday: Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen!

Jesus has indeed risen.

Luke 24: 1-8

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them,

‘Why do you look for the living among the dead?’

⁶ He is not here; he has risen!

Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ “The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

Whatever else is happening all around us, during the coronavirus pandemic, it has exposed our cultures commitment to an utterly unworkable and unsustainable worldview. I guess I tend to think of the western world, when I think about ‘our cultures’, but a pandemic, by definition, impacts the whole world. Many commentators have already stated *the world* will never be the same again.

In the midst of tragedy, we are hearing daily stories of faith, hope and love.

Many people have commented already how they have been caused to re-think what’s really important to them, what they thought essential, just so very few weeks ago, are no longer.

I think we’re all being caused to review our priorities and I’ve heard rejoicing that, at last, people are able to give time to those they’ve previously said really matter to them.

We’re all re-ordering our lives, initially out of necessity, hoping it would be for a short time, but now we’re wondering if we can pursue some aspects

I want to dare to suggest that every glimpse you’ve had of something good and true is a reflection of a better world we can pursue and a glimpse of the kingdom of God, of which Jesus Christ is King.

All of this is in the midst of death.

The worst-case scenarios are measured in the number of deaths, which will result and leave a lasting impact from the Covid-19 pandemic. Even as I speak the death tally continues to rise, death remains the worst case.

Today, Easter Day, Resurrection Day, we rejoice because Jesus Christ has not only looked death in the face, he has entered in and come out the other side.

The history of the world will not be dated BC (Before Covid-19) and AC (after Covid-19) big as the present impact is.

It *is* dated BC Before Christ and AD 'anno Domini nostril Jesu Christi', which translates "in the year of our **Lord Jesus Christ**".

If Jesus Christ had not risen from the dead, we have no idea what year we'd be in.

Jesus Christ *has risen* from the dead.

Did you respond, out loud, at the beginning of this clip by replying 'He is Risen indeed'?

With those words we are saying: "**He is risen, in fact, in truth and I as an individual affirm that**". Maybe if you're in isolation you can get over your embarrassment and shout it out loud:

Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed!

Whether you shout it out, or remain quiet, after all many of are British, God is primarily interested in your heart response ... what's going on inside?

You could worse than listening to the advice of the angels: 'Don't look for the living among the dead'. In the face of death there is only one hope and that is Jesus Christ, the hope of the world.

So don't turn back, on every glimpse of new life you've seen, because this day, Easter Day, Resurrection Day, the resurrected Jesus wants you to look him in the face and see the reason.

On 16th March when our Government enhanced our measures to attempt to reduce the number of deaths resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, we missed the first daily briefing on the news. One of our sons phoned us later on to urge us to listen and change our plans. I was due to be London the following day and my wife, Maggie was due in school.

Ben, in an attempt to get his mum who's asthmatic to listen, said: 'I know it's scary, but if I didn't tell you this, I'd never forgive myself'.

If you know the hope of the world, Jesus Christ and you know someone facing death, please pass on that hope.

My prayer for us all today:

Lord help us not to be content with seeing who you are and understanding your victory over death. Help us to live in the resurrection power of Jesus, each and every day, for the sake of the world you love. In the strong and mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

To watch the video, go to: <https://www.thefuelcast.com/>

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