

## Easter People, Raise Your Voices

**John 20:1-18**

**约翰福音 20:1-18**

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Loving God, we do give you thanks for opportunity of knowing that you walk with us in the midst of these days. You know our thoughts before we can think them. You know the emptiness of our heart, the struggle of our soul, you know of our uncertainty in the midst of these days. 爱我们的神，感谢祢在这段时间里，让我们知道祢是一直与我们同行，在我们哑然无声时，祢已经知道我们的心思意念，祢知道我们在这些日子里，面对着这个变幻无常的局面时心灵一片空虚，灵命软弱地掙扎。

Come Lord Jesus be our guest, speak to us where we need it most. Give us that peace that surpasses understanding, bless us with courage and strength for the journey that lies ahead. And grant to us, Oh God, continual revelations of the resurrected Jesus in our midst.

主耶稣，请到我们的心里作客，对我们讲述触碰心底的恩言，让我们得到那无法超越语言所能表达的平安，又给我们勇气和体力邁向前面的道路。神呀！求祢让我们在异象中看见那来到在我们中间的复活主耶稣基督！

God in these moments, as I share this message, I will pray a personal prayer that either through me or in spite of me, you might speak to your church today. I pray this in the name of Christ. Amen.

神呀，在我分享信这信息时，请求祢，无论是通过我与否，今天就请祢亲自对教会说话，祷告奉主耶稣基督求！

The Easter Story that we love to tell each year is filled with drama: sadness and despair turned into awe and inspiration. It's a story of human aspirations and dreams being dashed one minute and revived the next. It's a story of doubt and skepticism being converted to renewed faith when Christ is witnessed in their midst.

我们每年喜欢分享的复活节故事都是充满戲劇性：是悲伤绝望转化为敬畏和鼓舞，是人类的故事，一生抱负夢想一朝丧，转身却又是鳳凰，这就是当我们见证基督时把我不信和怀疑的思想转变为重生的信仰。

It all happens when Christ is witnessed in their midst:当有人在他们中间作见证时，这些事情就会发生：

- The downtrodden disciples did not believe. But Mary knew because she witnessed Christ in her midst. 被压制的门徒们没有信心，但玛利亚知道，因为见到耶稣在她身边。
- Skeptics felt that the empty tomb only meant that Jesus' body had been stolen. But the disciples believed because he appeared to them in the Upper Room. 怀疑论者认为空的坟墓只当是耶稣的尸体被盗，但是门徒们都相信，因为门徒们在楼上聚集时，耶稣向他们显现。
- Thomas doubted. But Jesus offered his hands and his side and Thomas believed.
- 多马还是怀疑，但是当耶稣让他触碰双手和肋旁时，他相信了。
- Later on, two followers of Jesus encounter him on the Road of Emmaus and while they didn't know who he was, they recognized him when he broke the bread, and they believed.
- 后来，两个门徒在往以马忤斯路上遇见耶稣却是不知道他是谁，直到耶稣擘饼，他们也相信了。

What is interesting to me is that for centuries now we have maintained and passed on the Christian faith, but there are no current eyewitnesses. Instead, it's how we see the story playing out in our midst and how those stories make the resurrection real for us even now.

有趣的是，世世代代过去，我们仍然在传承基督教信仰，虽然再没有当年的见证人，同样的见证故事在我们当中上演，让我们今天都知道主耶稣是真的复活了。

We cannot literally see the resurrected Christ, but in reality, today we do see Christ alive. We see Jesus through symbols, feelings, and people in our midst. 我们不能亲见到复活的基督，但事实上我们都能见到耶稣活着，保留在象征，感觉和在人群中。

As long as I have been alive, I have these memories of Holy Week and going to church. On Maundy Thursday, I remember worshipping together, remembering the story of the Last Supper and the Disciples betrayal. For years, I participated as an actor in a "Living Last Supper (," and at the end of the service, stripping the church and going from light to darkness. 我这一生都是活在受难周去教堂的记忆中，记得周四一同敬拜，追忆最后晚餐和门徒的叛逆。年复一年，我在“最后晚餐重演”中演绎，散场时，把“教会”脱下，从光明走进黑暗。

I remember Good Friday services, nailing confessions on a cross, singing somber music, and calling people to journey deep within their souls and evoking a feeling of emptiness as they thought about how they themselves had betrayed Jesus. 我记得受难日崇拜，把罪状钉上十字架上，唱敬醒的诗歌，呼唤会众思想他们是否有背叛主耶稣？让我他们直接进到自己的灵魂的深处，触摸自己心灵的空虚。

I remember Sunrise Services, cold spring days waiting in song and liturgy for the sun to rise and the beginning of a full morning of praise and joy over the coming of Easter. 我也记得那些寒冷春天的日出崇拜，边进行礼仪和唱诗，边等候日出和迎接复活节来临的赞美和欢乐。

I remember in my first appointment, the Quille Crook family cooking breakfast for the entire church following the Sunrise Service. I remember the pastries, the pancakes, the taste of fresh sausage. 也记得我第一次主持日出崇拜后，奎尔·克鲁克家庭为全教会准备早餐，还是想起那些热烘烘的糕点，薄饼和香肠。

And then the Easter Service! What joy in putting on my white stole, processing with the choir, singing the great hymns of the church, seeing everyone all decked out in the new Sunday best, and the Lilies – oh, the sweet smell of those lilies! 那些复活节崇拜！我带着喜乐的洁白圣袍，和诗班列队步入礼堂，会众华服新装，满屋扬起百合花的香气！

This Lenten journey to Easter has, historically, been all about evoking the presence of Jesus through symbols, songs, fragrances and nature. Over the years, we've relied on those feelings and looked forward to those remembrances. 传统上从大斋期到复活节，充满了代表耶稣同在的象征，唱圣诗，享受香气和大自然的气息。这些年来，我都依赖这种感觉，盼望着这些记忆的再临。

But this has been a strange Lenten Season. A most unusual Holy Week. A less than majestic Easter Sunday. 但是，这个大斋期有点奇怪，是一个非常特别的受难周，有点失去昔日壮丽的复活节主日。

It is a season that has tested us. A time when we have had to remind ourselves, some days more than others, that God did not bring this pandemic on us, but God surely is with us as we journey through these uncertain days. When times are good, how easy it is to say, "God is with us." But when times get challenging, it is when we draw deep into the well of our faith to say then as well, "God IS surely with us!" 这是一个考验我们的季节，是我们时刻提醒自己，有些日子会比较多点需要认定“神没有降下这全球瘟疫给我们，却有真实地在我们中间，与我们一同走过这些无常的日子。当太平盛世，我们很轻松地说：“神与我们同在。”然而当时势逆转变为忧患，正是在这时刻，我们要进到信仰泉源的深处取用活水，坚定的说：“神真的是与我们同在。”

This has been a strange Lenten Season. A most unusual Holy Week. A less than majestic Easter Sunday. 这是一个陌生生的大斋期，是一个非常特别的受难周，是一个失去昔日壮丽的复活节主日。

It could be said that this has been a forty-day journey of Good Friday. There has been so much darkness, so much illness, so much death. We haven't needed a service to stimulate or remind us of the pain of death. Those reminders have been on our televisions no matter the time of day or night. Many people that we know and countless others that we will never know who have been and are facing such pain and agony. 这些日子好象是一个40日行程的受难日，经过多少黑

暗，见过多少的病患，陪伴过多少的死亡。我们已经无需一个特别聚会去提醒我们死亡的痛苦，电视已经日夜在提醒，认识的或数不清的陌生人都曾面对痛苦和挣扎。

This has been a strange Lenten Season. A most unusual Holy Week. A less than majestic Easter Sunday. 这个是一个陌生的大斋期，是一个非常特别的受难周，是一个失去昔日光采的复活节主日。

Oh, how I wish I could just smell the sweet aroma of a lily this year. 噢，我曾是多么希望今年可以闻到百合花的香气。

But wait a minute! Perhaps there IS a sweet aroma in our midst. Perhaps there IS a great symbol of resurrection all around us. Perhaps we ARE seeing Christ alive all around us! 但是等等，也许在我们中间真的有甜蜜的香气，也许有一个很浩大的复活象征就在我们身边，也许我们看见耶稣就活在我四周！

As we have journeyed through these days, we ARE eyewitnesses of Christ alive in our midst. We are benefactors of daily stories of how the spirit is moving and breathing and working in our actions and the actions of others. 当我们渡过这些日子，我们是基督活着在的见证人，我们是圣灵工作的受益人，圣灵天天在我们和其他人的生命中运行。

- I see Jesus today in the sacrificial service of medical personnel who are putting their lives on the line to save the life of another. 在不顾自己生死，抢救他人性命，牺牲自己的医务人员中，我看见耶稣。
- I see Jesus alive today in an ER nurse who works tirelessly to make sure her patient has oxygen, a police officer & a fireman who respond to every call for help, and a grocery store clerk who shows up faithfully and stands in the midst of harm's way just so I can be fed. 今天，我见到耶稣活着在那急救室医护身上。她尽力供应每一个病人都有氧气供应，又见到耶稣在一个警察和一个消防员在跟进每一个求救电话，和见到耶稣在一个超市收银员身上，忠心地出现在在高危的岗位上，以便我可以有食物生存下去。
- I see Jesus today as I talk to my neighbors distanced by our yards. Never before has "How are you?" and "I hope you are healthy" meant so much. 今天我和邻居隔着后园聊天时见到耶稣，每一句：“你好吗？”，一个“祝您健康！”，都变得那么有意义。
- I see Jesus in local church feeding stations, and homeless ministries, and live stream worship, and countless ways we are engaging in "high touch" ministries with no touch precautions. 我见到耶稣在本地堂会的食物派发站里，在无家者事工中，在网络崇拜里，和在无穷尽的“高度接触”却又全无接触的事工中。

Today, the darkness is turning to light, the nothingness has turned to lily white, the feelings of newness and beauty and love have turned our heads and touched our hearts, and the countless

ways that Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life, the resurrected Lord of life has showed up to remind us that in the midst of the darkness there is light and hope and promise for a new day. It's all because the resurrected Jesus has worked through us. 今天，黑暗将转向光明，那虚无转为百合般的洁白，那新生命，美丽和大爱促使我们回望，心灵觉得温暖，那位就是道路，真理，生命的那位复活的生命主宰，无数次在黑暗中显现，提醒我们，在黑暗中有光和希望，复活的主应许有新的一天，祂通过我们工作到现在。

Who needs the smell of a lily when the sweet smell of good people living out their faith in selfless acts of love all are around? Today, we ARE the Easter Connection; a connection of faith & hope that unites us together in fellowship and love even though we cannot be united in physical presence. 谁还需要那百合花的气味？当那些良善的人活出他们的信仰、无私地四处尽显爱心？今天，我们就是那“复活的连结”，一个信心和盼望的连结，已经把我们联合在团契和神爱中，虽然不能面对面的在一起。

*We serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today. I know that he is living, whatever folks may say. I see his hands of mercy, I feel his loving care. And just the time I need him, he's always there.*  
我所事奉复活主，祂今在世活着。我知道祂確活着，不曾人怎么说；  
我见祂手施怜悯，我闻祂安慰声，每次当我需求祂，总必垂听。

We are connected today to the empty tomb and the risen Christ. We are connected because love's sacrifice on our behalf didn't end when Jesus rose. Love's sacrifice on our behalf continues today. And there is nothing that can compare to the actual experience of Christ alive in our midst. 今天我们与空的墳墓和复活主联合，是因为当耶稣复活，那爱的代赎献祭仍然生效，这种基督活在我们中间的真实体验是没有什么可以类比的。

A few years ago, there was a couple who visited the majestic St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England. As a part of the tour, the guide showed them a picture of the bombing of London during World War II. 几年前，一对夫妻遊览英国伦敦圣保罗大教堂，导游领他们到一幅二战期间伦敦被轟炸的名画前。

The guide told the couple of being a young man when the bombing took place. He told them about that particular night when it seemed all of London was in flames. His voice filled with emotion as he described how he and his family could only see flames and clouds of smoke. A tear welled up in his eyes as he told them of how they cried because they felt that their entire lives were being destroyed forever. 导游告诉这对夫妻，当时他很年青，有一个晚上好象整个伦敦都在火焰中，他的声音开始激动，他回想当时和家人只能看着火焰和黑烟，眼眶带着泪光说，当时他们觉得他们的一生都会被毀掉时都哭了。

But then he told the couple about a breeze that started to blow and how the breeze settled in and miraculously began to clear the smoke. *“Then,”* the guide said, *“then we received our sign from God. As the smoke began to clear, I caught sight of the gold cross still standing on St. Paul’s cathedral. In that moment, I knew God was with us. In that moment, I knew there was a power greater than a swastika that would bring us through our dark days.”*

他接着对游客夫妻说，但是一阵微风开始吹来，逐渐把烟吹散，他接着说：“然后我们看到一个神迹，当烟还波散去时，我看见圣保罗大教堂屋顶的金十字架仍然竖立，那一刻，我知道神是与我们同在，从那之后，我知道有一个比万字十字架更大的力量，祂会帶我们走出这黑暗的日子。

Oh, my friends and colleagues, today life is filled with gloom and terror, hardship and pain, suffering and death on a scale that many of us have not witnessed in our lifetimes. It is scary and dark and terrifying. But on this Easter Sunday, let me remind you – there is a breeze that’s blowing. Look up from your downtrodden and anxious spirits. There is a cross that is still standing! Catch a vision of what Christ did and what Christ is doing and what Christ will do for each of us. And know that there is a power greater than any earthly force that WILL bring us through! 噢，我的朋友们，同工们，今天的人生充斥着优郁和恐怖，艰难和危险，悲痛和死亡的，这个问题的嚴重程度，是我们许多人一生中都有从未经历述过的，没有过这些恐惧，黑暗和可怕的事情。但是，在这复活节主日，让我提醒您，有一阵微风在吹过，抬起您们被践踏和忧虑的心情，有一个永恒的十字架仍然竖立，让我们了抬头仰望基督，看祂曾经为我们成就了什么？今天基督仍然在做什么？和将来基督会为我们完全什么？要知道，这里有一个比世界上任何权能都更大能力的上帝，祂的会引领我们渡过！

There are no lilies this year and there are no grand processions. But there are eyewitness accounts of an empty tomb, a risen Christ, and plenty of hearts all around us filled with love of God and love of neighbor.今年没有百合花，也没有大庆祝遊行，但是有见证了我們空墓的记录，有一位复活的基督，还有神的爱和鄰居的爱围绕着我们。

Earlier in the week I was on a phone conversation with Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Roman Catholic archbishop of New York. In that conversation, Cardinal Dolan told a story that I have used myself in past sermons. Back in the 1950’s, there was a large gala in New York City. In attendance was the great actor, Richard Burton and the great preacher, Bishop Fulton Sheen. Near the end of the event, the hostess said, “Tonight we have in our midst two of the world’s greatest speakers.” She then proceeded to ask Burton and Sheen to both give a reading of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. The two great figures complied. Richard Burton recited the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and with his great voice, he compelled the audience. Bishop Fulton Sheen followed and with his great oratory skills, held the audience spellbound.

前几天我和红衣主教提摩太·杜伦通电话，他是罗马天主教纽约教区的总主教，言谈中说到一个故事，以前我也在讲台上引用过。在1950年代，纽约有盛大的节日庆典，参加者有当年大明星，查理士·伯顿和伟大的牧师富尔顿·沈安。那天当差不多到最后节目时，女

主人说：“今天晚上有两位世界上最伟大的演讲家在我们中间。“接下来她邀请伯顿和沈安各自演译诗篇第廿三篇。他们都同意了，查理士·伯顿用他壮丽的声音征服了听众，接下来富尔顿·沈安主教用他雄辩的技艺让全场着迷。

When they both had finished, the hostess simply said, “Mr. Burton, it is clear from your reading that you know the Psalm. But Bishop Sheen, it is clear from your reading that you know the shepherd.” 当他们都演绎完毕后，女主人说：“伯顿先生，很明显，从您的背诵您了解这首诗篇。但是，沈安主教，从您的朗诵中，很明显您是认识那位牧羊人。”

Do you know the shepherd? If you do, you are the one who says, “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.*” 您们认识那位牧羊人吗？“我虽然行过死荫的幽谷，也不怕遭害，因为你与我同在；你的杖，你的竿，都安慰我。”

We know that he is with us. And we celebrate today not only a historical event of resurrection. Today we celebrate life and resurrection as it is being witnessed all around us. ，我们知道主是常常与我们同在，而今天我们不单单是纪念一个历史上的复活，而是今天，我们要庆祝活在我们生命中的主，和环绕着我们那些祂已复活的见证！

One of the great rhythms of the Easter Season is found in the songs that we sing. Don't you just love to sing the Alleluias in “Christ the Lord is Risen Today,” or the great hymn, “Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days” or the drama and buildup of “Up from the Grave He Arose?” 其中最伟大的复活节旋律之一就在我们经常唱的圣诗果，您们不都是喜欢重复唱哈利路亚的吗？“基督今复活”，或是那首伟大圣诗“祂已复活，唱和散那！让我们大大欢庆”，或是那推向高峰的“主从墳墓里复活？”

You just can't replace those songs that recount the historical events of Jesus' resurrection. 您没有可能取代这些复述耶稣复活史实的圣诗。

But a few years ago, in 1979, a man by the name of William M. James, a name that many of us know, wrote a hymn that appears in our Book of Hymns. Bill James was born in Mississippi, served United Methodist congregations in Harlem and the Bronx. He was a community developer and mentor to many clergy and laity in New York City. He was the face of Christ in the midst of poverty and racism. 但是几年前，在1979年，一位年轻人叫威廉·詹姆斯，我们许多人都认识他，写了一首圣诗收录在圣诗集中。詹姆斯是在密西西比州出生，在哈林及布朗克斯牧养联合循道会教会，他是社区服务的发展者，和在纽约市很多牧者和平信徒的良师益友，他是在贫穷和种族歧视中那张耶稣的面容。

He wrote a hymn entitled “Easter People Raise Your Voices.” It is a hymn that does not tell a historical story of resurrection but, instead, reminds us that Easter is always around us, always

within us, no matter what we face. 他写了一首诗“Easter People Raise Your Voice.” 这首圣诗没有讲述复活的事实，却在提醒我们无论我们面对什么情况，复活节总是在我中间，常常与我们同在。

*Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring. Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music let it ring. Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.*

*Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below. For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe. Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.*

*Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble, move the faster to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.*

I don't need a lily this season. The sweet smell of the risen Christ at work among us is the best smell I can imagine. 这个季节，我不再需要百合花，在我们中间已经有基督复活的香气，那已经是我闻到的最好的气味道了。

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. 奉圣父，圣子和圣灵的名！阿门。

Amen.