**New Kilpatrick**

**Podcast**

**Easter Day 2022**

**Gathering**

On Friday the body was broken

And taken down from the cross

Broken and cold

And laid in a tomb

Three days later

Morning breaks

And a new dawn spills into the world

Dazzling a set of footprints

In the dew

By a tomb, now empty,

Behind a stone,

Rolled and discarded

Angels hide

Restless with good news

Trying to keep a secret

Waiting for someone to come

To anoint a body

But they laugh

For it is no longer there

Mary

Is first

And unable to keep silent any longer

The heavenly beings blurt out

‘He is not here!’

There is laughter in their voices

Giggling with good news

Hardly able to get the words out

‘He is risen!’

And suddenly the sun lifts itself over the horizon

Shards of light fuse together

And create the peachy orangey yellow gold of the first kingdom day

And the angels shout aloud

The word they have been holding onto for so long

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

**Reading John 20:1-8**

**Turning things around**

All the opposites. It’s a day when the opposites of everything. That happened on Friday, happens today.

So here are some Good Friday words, what are the words we use today, what are the opposites?

Death (Life)

Pain (hope)

Sadness (joy)

Loss (found)

Closed (tomb)

Shadows (light)

Graveyard (garden)

Impossible (possible)

**Prayer**

Living Lord

What a day

What a morning

What a story

All the opposites are happening

From shadow to light

From death to life

From sadness to joy

From graveyside to garden-side

From being lost to finding again

From hatred to love

From silence to alleluias

Everything has turned round

And today

May we celebrate

And let go a little

Breathe in new life

Enjoy the light

Share the good news

Living Lord

May we believe once more

In the possibility of today

Dare we trust hope

And cling onto life

And long for what is yet to be

For there is far more to come

And share what it means

To live in the light of resurrection

To return to life

Of new life

Of loving life

Hear us

As we share the Lord’s Prayer

**Reflection**

It is a day that begins quietly… the kingdom is reborn and no one notices… how can a stone roll, a tomb empty, and a body resurrect, without someone noticing?…

We have a world full of fanfares… we like occasion… we make a point with such things… set out our stall… define who we are… tell the rest of the world what and who we are with parades and announcements and multimedia presentations…

Not resurrection… it just slips in… and no one notices…

Maybe because it is much bigger than the moment itself… resurrection is more than the story of the empty tomb… and the angels gathering… and the women running…

Resurrection is hope… resurrection is truth… resurrection is a relationship with the future…

Resurrection is not something to hang up on your wall like a certificate… resurrection is how we live…

Resurrection is not a reward for good behaviour… resurrection is about what is yet to be…

Resurrection is not something to understand in a story in a gospel… resurrection is something to grow into…

We limit the truth or what resurrection is by keeping it only to the story of the empty tomb… It is more than that… That story is an invitation and a promise… into which we are to live… and through which… love continually tries to redeem the world…

Because if it is only a single historical event somewhere in the past… then it doesn’t have much to say to Ukraine… or Yemen… or Syria… Afghanistan… It has little to say to those who have now slipped into absolute poverty because of fuel and food costs… it has little to so to an environment growing under the weight of war and economy…

So resurrection keeps slipping in… keeps the promise alive… keeps the invitation open… keeps hope burning for the world…

Too often we don’t notice it… too busy with war or power or life… yet resurrection is the very stuff of life… the very core of who we are… the possibility… the promise… the invitation to have a relationship with the future…

And the only hope we can live towards, for Ukraine and Afghanistan… the least in our world… the lost…

Resurrection is love’s gift on Easter morning… every morning… quietly waiting till we notice…

**Statement of Faith**

When stones are rolled and tombs are emptied

And footprints are left in the dew at dawn

What's the word you use:
Alleluia!

When woman run to anoint a body

But find it is no longer there

What's the word you use:
Tomb Busters!

When grave clothes are folded

Where a body should have been

What's the word you use:
Tomb Busters!

When men don’t believe

And women don’t stop shouting

What's the word you use:
Tomb Busters!

When the gardener speaks

And his voice sounds like Jesus

What's the word you use:
Tomb Busters!

When a sense of loss

Turn to a sense of being found

What's the word you use:
Tomb Busters!

When the good news of angels

Is that he has now gone ahead

What's the word you use:
Tomb Busters!

When faith changes everything

And hope is real

What's the word you use:
Tomb Busters!

**Prayer**

This morning

O God

This morning

In this new life

Now stones have rolled

And the dawn has broken

We dream of the resurrected life

For our world

More than dream it

Hope in it

More than hope in it

Live towards it

That relationship with the future

That speaks of possibility

And renewal

And love

This is our easter prayer

And for all conflict in the world

From Ukraine to Syria

Yemen to Afghanistan

Tigray to Somalia

May we live into a future of peace and justice and renewal

For all who worry about life

Who cannot afford food and heat

For those who now live below the poverty line

In our own communities

And those beyond us

May we live into a future of rebalance, and a new morality

For all who live on land that is flooded

Or hit by famine

Or is stripped by multinationals

May we live into a future of a new creation, with integrity and love for the land

For all our families and friends

For Tilly and her family

For those who are ill and worried

Those anxious with poor physical or mental health

For our parish this day

May we live into a future where we connect and love and renew each other

May we live into resurrection

So be it

Amen

**Benediction**