**New Kilpatrick**

**Podcast**

**Easter Day 2023**

**Mark 16:1-8**

**The story**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, “Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?”

**4-5**Then they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back—it was a huge stone—and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished.

**6-7**He said, “Don’t be afraid. I know you’re looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He’s been raised up; he’s here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You’ll see him there, exactly as he said.”

**8**They got out as fast as they could, beside themselves, their heads swimming. Stunned, they said nothing to anyone.

**Statement**

There is a rumour…

Death is not the end

Life has a way of returning

Do you believe it?

There is a rumour…

He is not here

He has gone before us

Do you believe it?

There is a rumour…

The stone has rolled

And the tomb is empty

Do you believe it?

There is a rumour…

The women have news

That what he said might be true

Do you believe it?

There is a rumour…

There are a set of footprints in the grass

And they might be those of Jesus

Do you believe it?

There is a rumour…

Jesus is back

Love has won

Do you believe it?

**Introduction**

Hello, I’m Roddy Hamilton the minister of New Kilpatrick Parish and on this Easter Day… thank you that we can celebrate it together… It is difficult to find the words or the explanation or the understanding of what all this means… All we have are stories of Jesus alive… in upper rooms… on beaches… at tables… in gardens… and in this shorter time together… we celebrate and wonder and ask, can this be true… So let us be together… are spread the rumour… the possibility… the improbable truth… Jesus is alive… alleluia…

**Prayer**

God,

Holy God,

Of all days

May we find the alleluias in this one;

May we be alive to the wonder

Of what else is possible;

May we be ready to trust

Everything might turn upside-down;

May we live in the conviction

This is not all there is;

May we find new words

To fill the gaps in this Easter experience;

And may we make space in our expectations

For surprises we once could only dream of.

Praise you, God,

Holy God,

For the daring hope,

Fearless Light,

Courageous Truth,

Resurrected Love,

And living Saviour

Newly alive

Today.

**Four Voices**

Here are the conclusion of four stories we told on Palm Sunday, four women from Jesus life… who were lost last week… Jesus mother… Mary from Mandala… The Syrophoneacian woman and others who were nameless but followed him… From last week to the rumour of this week… where are they now?

There is a rumour

He is back among us

He has found a way through death

And from that manger where I was with him in birth

Through that cross where I was with him in death

He is now with me in new life

Alleluia

——

There is a story

That he has returned among us

That the anointing of his feet

Was indeed preparing him for death

But can it be true

He was preparing me for life

He breathes among us again, so they say,

Alleluia

——

They say he is alive

The one who called me a dog and then realised the kingdom stretched into Samaria

And there he fed these very gentiles he initially despised.

They say he is back,

Alive

Even to us, the outsiders

Alleluia

——

I’ve been told he is among us

All of us

Even the leper and the blind, the lost and the abandoned

The women and the children, the orphan and the widow

He has returned with compassion and love

His story of justice and inclusion and grace

Breathes again

Alleluia

**Reflection**

No one is absolutely sure in Mark’s gospel about what is happening. The tomb is empty but the body not there and no sign of him. The only emotion the women feel is fear… Here’s a reminder of what the angel says

“Don’t be afraid. I know you’re looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He’s been raised up; he’s here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You’ll see him there, exactly as he said.”

**8**They got out as fast as they could, beside themselves, their heads swimming. Stunned, they said nothing to anyone.

What other way is there to react to resurrection

Other than with fear?

What do we do with the news

That everything the world trusts

Might not be true,

That all the principles of science and experience

Are dodgy,

That the wisdom we have lived by all our days

Has turned to foolishness?

Finally, there is nothing final;

Death is not as certain as we once thought.

What do we do with that

Other than respond with fear?

Fear like this

Surely is a mark of faith!

The women had that shifting feeling

That sense of free-falling

That everything he said could be true.

Can it be any other way for the faithful?

Ready-prepared alleluias

Are too easy.

There is little depth in a quick ‘Good morning Jesus’

As if resurrection was a given.

It costs to believe.

Even with resurrection.

Especially with resurrection.

It’s not something you easily jump to

Without first wondering

Even fearing

What other bulwarks, fortresses, citadels will crumble in the name of love?

Resurrection is just the beginning of the revolution of the kingdom.

May we, like the women,

Faithfully fear what is yet to come true.

**Prayer**

In the light of this day

In the rumour that he is alive

In the word that speaks again

In the love that lives again

May we live anew

May we speak of wonders

And tell tales of resurrection

May we share good news

Of promise fulfilled

And we live anew

May we speak of such hope

In the places of conflict

And where people hunger

And justice is thin

May the world live anew

May we speak of resurrection

In the places where hope has gone

And live for justice

For the least in our world

That the world might live anew

And find you among us

In the love we share

And the compassion we offer

And the truth we now speak

That the world might live anew

And resurrection

Becomes our way of living

Hoping,

Inspiring,

Each other to live anew

Living God

Resurrected Saviour

Hear our prayer

Our hope

And our celebration

So be it

Amen

**Benediction**