

I was out walking the dog recently, when our peaceful ramble through the countryside was interrupted by the most astounding cacophony of honking calls - the return of the Canadian Geese. Overhead passed formation after formation of 'flying V's', hundreds - possibly thousands - of birds, making their way north, to nest and raise a new generation of goslings. It was a glorious sight, in and of itself. But it was also a powerful reminder that spring was upon us, and that new life will thrive.

A timely reminder, perhaps, given the year that we are all looking forward to leaving behind us: that this too will pass; that new life will thrive; that the darkness of winter does eventually fade away under the summer sun. That has been the extended message of our Lenten reflections this year: John's reminder that there is a light that shines in the darkness, and that the darkness does not overcome it. And that, of course, is the heart of the Easter Good News - that God so desired that nothing in all creation would be able to separate us from God's love, that God became part of creation itself, so that creation might become part of God. And that gift of life and love and hope would not be undone, even by the lowest acts of fear, hatred and rejection to which humanity could stoop. The cross is followed by the resurrection, every time. And it is good that we remember and celebrate that truth every Easter again, because that truth shapes who each and every one of us are.

That was my first thought, as the great flocks of geese overhead returned home: the cycles of life; their implicit promise of hope; and the love of the God who holds our lives always in the very palm of his hand. My second thought was more a momentary vision than anything else. Just for a moment, I saw the vast tapestry of time spread out around me, stretching away to infinity in every direction. Woven into the tapestry I saw the return of the migrating geese above me; and the cycle of the year from fall to winter to spring, with the summer still lying ahead; and I saw the thousands upon thousands of cycles and migrations and new generations that had birthed and rebirthed as the world had turned, and the thousands upon thousands still to come. And in that vast tapestry of cycles upon cycles, before and ahead, I saw myself, woven into that one brief moment of the tapestry's weft as well.

And that was a reminder of Easter too. It was a reminder that while Easter is a joyous holiday to look forward to and celebrate year on year on year, that holiday is itself but a reminder of a greater truth again. As much as the passing cycles of time give shape to our lives, and hope for our futures, it's not in the endless past or future that we live. We live in the present, in the eternal moment between what has passed and what could yet still be. And in that moment, every moment, God is with us. The promise of Easter is that, because nothing can ever separate us from the love of God, not even death itself, every moment is a moment with God. The true reality of Easter is not something we celebrate only once a year, but a reality we experience every instant. Every moment of our lives is an Easter moment, if we remember to stop and look.

So, as Lent draws to a close, and Easter approaches with the coming spring, set aside some time for prayerful reflection: Think about the dark moments of the past year, remember that the God of Resurrection has been with you, and give thanks; Think about the year to come, your hopes for your friends and family and community, remember that the God of Resurrection is already there, and give thanks; And think about yourself, alive in this moment, held in the hand of the God of Easter, and be at peace.

A blessed Easter to you all,  
Fr Doug



## Online Worship

### *Maundy Thursday*

April 1<sup>st</sup> - 7pm

The Latin word “Maundatum”, meaning “commandment” is the basis for this service, from the words of Jesus – “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another” at the Last Supper, Jesus final meal with his disciples. Following the Eucharist, the church is stripped of any ornamentation in preparation for the solemn observance of Good Friday.



### *Good Friday*

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10am

Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross to free humanity from sin. Through his sacrifice we are able to be in relationship with God. This is the second day of special observance (the other being Ash Wednesday) for the practice of fasting.



### *Holy Saturday*

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5pm

Evening prayer and the lighting of the Easter candle

### *Easter Sunday*

April 4<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am

The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over death. We celebrate together in obedience to his command – “do this in memory of me”.

*Happy Easter*