

ROSEMARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland – NIC 104448

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Dear Friends,

Easter is here! Jesus is alive! This is a very special time for us as followers of Jesus as we meditate on the death of Jesus and celebrate His resurrection. The humiliation He experienced on the cross is replaced by His exaltation to His Father's side.

God raised Jesus victorious over death and accepting this sacrifice as punishment for the sin of mankind. The way is now open again to restart the relationship between God and mankind. Paul reminds the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15) to hold fast to this good news which he preached and by which we are being saved. Without the death and resurrection of Jesus we have no hope and are still left in our sin without God. Paul is emphasising that it is as a result of God's grace, His undeserved favour, that we are what we are (1 Corinthians 15:10). We are God's children, part of His family with many brothers and sisters in Christ through faith.

At the beginning of Luke 24 we read of the resurrection of Jesus. After meeting with two people on the Emmaus Road, He stands with His disciples. After Jesus greeting of peace the disciples are startled and frightened. At this point they are not sure who He is but Jesus amazingly reveals Himself so that they are in no doubt. In an attempt to reassure them Jesus asks them to look at His hands and feet, touch him and He eats some broiled fish with them. He takes the opportunity to remind them of what He had said to them, while He was still with them, what the prophets had said about His death and resurrection.

This is so important for these disciples, they need to know that Jesus is alive! This meeting with Jesus will be the foundation of the rest of their lives and ministries in His name. Now that they have met with, talked with, ate with and touched the Living Risen Jesus Christ, their lives would be transformed for ever.

What a commission as Jesus sends the promise of His Father on these disciples. All that Jesus had said to them would come flooding into their minds along with the realisation that it is now verified as true. He did suffer and die and rise on the third day as the prophets had said. He is God, the King of kings and Lord of lords. They now realise that He is able to forgive sin. Jesus is the resurrection and the Life and has defeated Satan and death. As a result of the resurrection Jesus has gone to His Father's House to prepare a place for those He will gather when He returns. After Jesus has been raised from the dead He promised to give us His Spirit, His presence with us and to realise that He is even now praying for us at God's right hand. Jesus is truly worthy of our worship as the Living, Loving, Risen Lord.

They are to stay in Jerusalem until God empowers them with His Holy Spirit and then they will go out into all the world in Jesus name to make disciples. This is able to happen because Jesus is alive and is able to transform the lives of all who experience His kingdom

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I pray that you will know the presence and power of the Risen Living Lord over this Easter as you celebrate who He is and what He has done.

Philip McCrea

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week Readings and Reflections.

Over this last week a number of people in Rosemary have been doing a reading and reflection on the Easter story in Luke's Gospel. These have been very helpful. If you have missed them you can catch up with them on the Rosemary Presbyterian Church Facebook Page or on the Rosemary Presbyterian Church Website.

A message from the Treasurer

As the restrictions introduced as a result of the Coronavirus continue I have been humbled by the number of members making contributions to Rosemary Presbyterian Church. This is much appreciated and enables us to meet our financial obligations as they become due for payment. I would encourage you all to contribute and would suggest these are made on a month by month basis until our normal weekly service resumes. This can be done by post or on line banking.

For FWO and / or other funds of the church - by cheque payable to Rosemary Presbyterian Church and posted to me at 18 Farm Lodge Road, Greenisland, Carrickfergus, BT38 8XH

For FWO only - by bank transfer to 95.01.21 account name Rosemary Presbyterian Church and account number 61034898. As a reference quote your surname + FWO number. For example Eakin No 123. This will assist greatly in identifying the donor for gift aid purposes.

Keeping in touch - using email

We hope to continue to keep in touch with everyone regularly over the coming weeks and rather than send copies of letters by post it will be easier and less expensive to use email. If you have an email address and are willing to have your letter sent electronically, please indicate this in an email to Liz Eakin (liz@rosemarypresbyterianchurch.org).

Resources

There are a number of resources on the PCI website in the 'These Three Remain' section. Tides is a set of daily devotions which provide a section of God's word to read, a short reflection sharing what this could mean for your life and a way for you to respond.

Service

There is a PCI Service led by Moderator on PCI Website. It is uploaded to the website on Sunday morning. (There is a link to this service on Rosemary Facebook Page)

Effective Communication

If you know of someone isolated and in need of help to get basic necessities then please let the minister or any of the elders know in order that we can arrange for help to be provided.