



Moderator
Rev David Baker

7 April 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (*John 1:5*)

This Easter will be quite unusual for many of us. No family camping trip, no Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service in our local church buildings, no sunrise service at the beach or lookout. It will be an Easter with a difference, and many of us may feel that difference keenly.

There are some things, however, that won't change. The ubiquitous chocolate Easter bunny seems immune to lockdown orders, and that will delight the younger ones among us. More importantly, we have the opportunity to gather as God's people with our communities, even if only in electronically connected form, as we walk through the season of Easter. From the darkness of Friday, to the depths of Saturday, to the coming of the light on Sunday let us be reminded and encouraged, refreshed, knowing that Jesus, light of the world is present among us this Easter. The darkness will not overcome the light of Christ.

Perhaps this unusual Easter presents a unique opportunity to notice, name and celebrate Jesus, light of the world, in new ways. Perhaps it provides space for some among us to have time to use new ways to encounter Christ anew and afresh. Quiet prayer and worship with those with whom we live. A chance to read one of the gospels right through, or one of the letters of the New Testament. Can we find a way to commune meaningfully in these days of social isolation?

I am conscious of the many who are working hard in our name this Easter, to bring light to a world that feels a little dark. Those who serve and minister in our aged care facilities or hospitals, who work with other groups of vulnerable Queenslanders for example, will be working harder than ever. Let us together pray for them, and others like them working right across our state—for safety, for health, and for wisdom.

I am praying for you, and for our church at this time—that we know Jesus, light of the world, as the rock upon which we can stand. I hope you will join me in those prayers.

Every blessing,

Rev David Baker
Moderator
Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod