**Easter Reflection – Easter Day 2020**

by The Ven Chris Hawthorn

**The Lord is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**

These are the words of the ancient Orthodox Church to celebrate Easter.

It is a simple statement followed by a simple response.

In the Russian Church they have sustained the faithful during periods of attacks by the communist powers to overthrow it. The words go back to the message in the gospels when the women came to the tomb on that first Easter Sunday morning. They were told “The Lord is risen. He is not here … he has gone before you …”

We too live in a world of uncertainty. Our Churches are closed. We are not allowed to meet together. We are not allowed to receive Holy Communion. Yet on the first Easter Sunday the disciples, apart from the two, who walked to Emmaus in the early evening, did not share the common cup. In spite of that one by one Jesus was known to be alive first by Mary of Magdala, then Peter, then the two at Emmaus and lastly those meeting in the Upper Room. In each case their lives were transformed and they found peace and strength. We too can find peace and strength as we wait upon the Lord in our own homes and as we go about our daily lives.

In the gospels there is that thread of what is known as the Galilee tradition.

The disciples were to carry on their daily lives and they found that Jesus met them not just in Jerusalem or its surroundings but as they went about their business.

The Queen in her message to the nation underlined the fact that we will get through this difficulty. Her message was based on her own deep, personal faith in God as found in the person of Jesus. Easter gives us that assurance.

**The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**