



The Wind Call

The Christian Community in and around

Cape Town: MAY – JULY 2020

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The frog, the rock and the future.

In the past month we have been put to the test in a number of ways which have challenged us to think again about how we see our humanity and how we live our lives. The questions that have filled the social media as to who or what is behind the corona virus, who or what is behind the lockdown and who or what is behind the loss of so many civil liberties is only interesting to the point that we become aware in general terms of who we are “dancing” with in the world today. Of much greater interest and importance is the question of how we respond to this situation and how we individually decide to meet it going into the future.

For decades now we have all been suffering from the “boiling frog syndrome” – the frog that happily sits in its water tank which is gradually but consistently being heated up without the frog noticing until it suddenly realizes that the water is so hot that it is being cooked alive and is too weak to get out of the tank! Whoever brought it about - the frog has just been woken up by an icy cold shower. He is still a greatly weakened frog, but he is alive, hopefully wiser and more wary now. We have all been shocked into awareness of the disastrous consequences of what we incrementally took to be ‘normal’ living. The very last thing that we can afford to do now is to revert back to being sleeping frogs in the same old tank under the same old conditions!

Now is a historically unique and opportune moment to do something of a 'stock take' or 'reality check' to see how things stand with ourselves. How peaceful are we within ourselves? How quick are we to resort to anger and aggression when aggrieved by anything or anyone? How much unresolved business and how many old grudges do we carry around with us? How careful am I with what I say and how aware am I of how what I say works on in the world? How much love and compassion am I prepared to pour out into the world – the social world, the natural world, the spiritual world? How much gratitude do I really feel each day? Is 'Christ in me' a trite formula or a living experience for me? How much acceptance and equanimity do I feel in contemplating the future? If I am not faring too well with these questions – how do I go about changing that?

The possible questions to ask are endless because what I am really asking myself is "What is the discrepancy between my ideal of what the human being should be, on the one hand, and how I am at the moment on the other?" Of course there will always be a deficit because we are on a path of growth into the realization of that ideal. So the question really is **"Am I still on that path of growth or am I sitting on the side of the road like the impoverished beggar in the Gospel?"**

Easter has come and hopefully it is not gone - but rather lives on every day as an impulse of continuous renewal which, like its author, is born in eternity. Never before has the Easter reality of the stone being rolled back from the tomb of the earth been as evident as in this year. The Corona episode was a real Passion-tide event in which every human being on the planet became startlingly aware of how the annihilating forces of death have crept systemically into every aspect of modern civilization and into our perception of what is normal human soul life. Materialism – that is mineralization of thinking – has come very close to the brink of squeezing all life out of the earth and humanity. Continued exponential growth along these lines – an accepted industrial imperative – would have destroyed life had it not been dramatically checked.

At Easter we celebrate the mineral being rolled back to reveal an empty tomb from which a whole new form of life has emerged. A life, which until then was unknown on earth. A life which is unthreatened by the mineralization process

because although engaging with it, it stands above it and is orientated towards the spiritual future of the earth and of all creation.

It is exactly this orientation that will make it possible for us to avoid reverting back to 'business as usual'. I can only live by such an orientation to the extent that I allow Christ to think in me. He is the one who rolls the stone away – even in my thinking.

We hear in the Act of Consecration of Man how the deeds of Christ themselves "think in us". His suffering and death, His resurrection and His revelation as an ongoing process all think in us. This means that these deeds are not once off events out there in the history of the world but that they are ongoing living and thinking processes or perhaps one should rather say; new ways of the working of the Logos – the creative Word – since that time and on into the future. The only place where these processes can work is in our souls. We need to get used to the idea that the way the creation progresses from now on is through suffering and death and resurrection and revelation.

Is this not what we are experiencing now? We suffer from the old things dying. However through Christ they resurrect in a new form and only so do they reveal to us their secrets. It is not primarily about the loss – it is about the discovery of reality in its newness. It is about the old giving way to a radically new way of being through becoming orientated towards the spiritual future of the earth and of all creation. He alone can bring this to fruition in us.

We can only unite with the world's becoming by uniting with the one who bears and orders the life of the world – the Christ.

Richard Goodall

**The Stained Glass
Window in the
Chapel**





**John Coates on the new path that
he had built in celebration of his
and
Margaret's Golden Wedding
Anniversary. The path runs from
the Cottages to the Church.**

He would like it to be named:

THE GOLDEN PATHWAY

OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE

15 March 2020

To my dearest Margaret
With immense gratitude and love
For the many happy years filled
With dedication, love and steadfastness
Through the fifty years
Of our married life together
And for your unswerving love
And devotion to our four children

Kevin, Colleen Stephen and David
And our seven grandchildren
Matthew, James, Thomas, Nicholas,
Christopher, Holly and Amber,
This path I would like to be called
The Golden Pathway to commemorate
This outstanding achievement
Of our married life together,
So that all who walk on it
May remember the loving lady
Who made it possible.
Thank you, my dearest Margaret,
For being my faithful partner
Through these memorable years -
Actually GOLDEN YEARS
John



Thanks to John and Margaret.

I am sure that all the people living in THC, the management of THC, the trustees of the church and the whole congregation will join me in expressing our very deep thanks to John and Margaret for their very generous contribution to the improvement of our church property and the lives of all who live in the THC cottages. The Golden Pathway is truly magnificent and something that we have been longing to see realized for years now.

Our very best wishes go to Margaret, who is at the moment in the frail care unit of Doordrift Lodge, for a smooth path of recovery to better health after her nasty fall. We look forward to the day when she comes back home.

Richard Goodall

Confirmation this year.

As you will be aware Sunday 26th April was to be our confirmation day. This could obviously not happen under the current circumstances.

The arrangement is that the confirmation will be held as soon as it is possible after the lockdown is lifted no matter what festival time that may fall in. This is an exception to the norm in which the confirmation is always celebrated during Eastertide. We can justify this when one considers the fact that Easter and all that flows from it is an impulse that permeates the whole year. However, this exceptional situation in no way sets a precedent for how and when confirmation will be celebrated in the future. It will in the future be celebrated during the six weeks of the Easter festival as it really is an Easter event in the life of the child.

Richard Goodall

Carole Penfold has given us an account of her Holy Week

The week of Holy Week was a profound experience for me. Not only did I have to centre myself into the outer journey of Holy Week but also my/the inner journey. There was so much more work for me to have to do.

Each day brought a specific challenge .For instance, Sunday of Palm Sunday with its euphoria and then Monday and the cursing of the fig tree and its connection to the old laws – I had to look within to see how many ‘old laws’ are still in me , recognize them and then gently try and offload them.

Then Tuesday and the fury of the upturned money tables in the temple. What did this action represent in my own life – the fury at being misunderstood or not being accepted? And much more. All these thoughts had to be examined and offloaded.

The beauty of Wednesday and Mary Magdalene pouring the treasured alabaster of oil and anointing Jesus made a deep, almost new impression on me. Such love and pure dedication in that one act somehow made, for me, a new understanding of Christ’s journey ahead. A journey we all have to face and travel in life towards our death.

Maundy Thursday had a solemn quietness and solitude about it for me. Even nature responded in such a gentle way. So that the loneliness in Gethsemane for Christ was undertaken with such sadness and yet knowing that His task had to be fulfilled - the loneliness - an intrinsic part of what it means to be human on earth. Also the action of Christ washing the feet of the Disciples after the Last Supper has always made me feel His deep humility and love for His Disciples.

The seven words from the cross found new depths in my soul – from the humanness of acknowledging His mother and uniting His special friend to her as her son to the finality of the words “IT IS FINISHED “each found deep resonance within.

The uncertainty of Easter Saturday became an interminable waiting ...but for what? Somehow a huge preparing for the unknown which again made me realize

that that uncertainty lies within me – an unknowing of what lies ahead except that death is the inevitable result.

And how does one constantly prepare in life for this moment? No shying away but a constant befriending of death became a certain reality for me during this Easter time.

The joyous event which Easter Sunday has always brought, especially the Easter walk to witness the sunrise, I now had to imagine in my own soul. To imagine the sunrise within was a challenge but led me to a deeper appreciation of the disciples walk to Emmaus when they were joined by a third Stranger and so deep were they in conversation that they did not 'see' who the Stranger was until He broke bread with them at the meal.

My own understanding of Easter became so much more. How many times do I just not recognize who is with me outwardly or within. He is always present and it only depends on my faith as to how much I may accept and see. Carole Penfold.

Annette and Charles Chouler also shared some thoughts with us

As a result of some very interesting, thought provoking posts shared on Facebook in recent weeks by Rev Peter Holman, I started to communicate directly with Peter, which has resulted in my receiving the Edinburgh Christian Community News throughout Holy Week and Easter time, sent out by Gabriele Kuhn their church Secretary, (who was once an active part of our CT community).

Through more email discussions with our daughter Theresa in Germany, I have also received their Ottersberg News. As a result, I have felt a wonderfully unifying connection, not only with our SA & Namibian Priests, but also in UK and Germany. I feel immensely blessed by their guidance and sharing of wisdom with us all. The discipline of "going to church at home" has been quite a challenge, but very strengthening and rewarding at this time of being physically apart.

Greetings to you all, Annette

Charles added: I have also immensely benefitted from the daily contemplations by the various priests during this unprecedented "lockdown" period, shared in the morning sunlight with Annette, which has mercifully coincided with Easter and the Resurrection. This has been deep sustenance for me before going off to Medicross to face the Covid scenario.

Corona Virus by John Coates

Corona Virus, the crown of all viruses!

What a beautiful name!

To bring us back to the reality

Of who and what we are

And how valuable each person is!

We can sing in our isolation!

Listen once again to the birds, the bees

And the wind in the trees.

See the blue sky without smog or vapour trails.

Pray to our heart's content

In the quiet of our locked down room,

Suburb, city, country or cell.

Our purchasing will be curtailed

Our streets and parking bays empty.

Some of us may die

But let us depart

With joy in our hearts

And to open our eyes

To the heavenly sights

That great men and women of old

Spoke, wrote and sang about!

A beautiful world is being born!

15/3/2020

Program May 2020

Dear Congregation,

At present we do not know when we are going to be able to resume our normal activities and so it is impossible to draw up a meaningful program for the coming months. I will do that as soon as we know what we, as a church, are permitted and not permitted to do.

For now, here are the readings for the coming weeks:

May 3	John 15; 1 – 27
May 10	John 16; 1 – 23
May 17	John 14; 1 - 31
May 21	Ascension Day: John 16; 24 – 33
May 24	John 16; 24 – 33
May 31	Whitsun: John 14; 23 – 31

Services will continue to be celebrated every morning in the chapel until our normal program is able to be resumed.

I encourage you all to continue working with the Act of Consecration of Man and with the Gospel readings and the Creed as much as you are able to in your own home/work situation and as far as circumstances allow.

Please note that the church office is 'un-manned' until further notice. However the church email address is still active from May's home. Rev.R.Goodall