

## Jesus is Risen (Easter Story) – Joy comes in the morning

### John 20 v1-18

**20** Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there <sup>7</sup> and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (<sup>9</sup> They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back home.

<sup>11</sup> Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her.

She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!"

<sup>14</sup> Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who is it that you are looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (This means "Teacher.") <sup>17</sup> "Do not hold on to me," Jesus told her, "because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God."

<sup>18</sup> So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.

**Psalm 30v1-5** I praise you, LORD, because you have saved me, and kept my enemies from gloating over me, I cried to you for help, O LORD my God, and you healed me; you kept me from the grave. I was on my way to the depths below, but you restored my life. Sing praise to the LORD, all his faithful people! Remember what the Holy One has done, and give him thanks! His anger lasts only a moment, his goodness for a lifetime.

There may be pain and weeping in the night, but joy comes in the morning.

### Intro

The psalmist said ' there is pain in the night, weeping in the night, but joy comes in the morning.

Jesus had been having a wonderful time since reaching 30 years of age, and leaving his carpentry and building job to become a travelling rabbi. He assembled disciples and followers, and wandered the land, village to village, teaching about the kingdom of God, performing signs and miracles, and feasting. Wherever he went he drew the crowds and his popularity grew amongst the peasants and normal folk, but so did his opposition from the religious authorities.

It was a beautiful spring day just before Passover, thronging with life, as many thousands arrived.

Those at the East gate, the humble Sheep Gate, witnessed quite a spectacle. The young Rabbi with his followers from Nazareth processed towards it, with Jesus riding at the front on a colt. The crowds sang his praises and laid symbolic palm leaves in front of him.

Another grand procession was coming to Jerusalem from the opposite direction foot-soldiers, horsemen and drummers. The might of Rome, banners and golden eagles held high glistening in the sun, led by the Regions ruler Pontius Pilate. The despised occupiers had returned in force to keep peace for the Passover festival. There was no cheering for Pilate, only hushed curses for the occupying forces.

The high priest Caiaphas, was residing in his own palace with its opulence, mosaic floors, frescoed walls, and beautiful courtyards. He got word of both processions. Both Jesus and Pilate had finally arrived in Jerusalem. The news unsettled him. Of the two it was the humble carpenter Jesus that he feared not the mighty Roman ruler. Jesus was viewed as a threat to their temple power, and to the cosy arrangements they had with the Romans. They didn't want anyone upsetting things.

Jesus' freedom and fun was coming to an abrupt end. Caiaphas and Pilate would see to that.

Jesus once declared that he was the Light of the World, but as Thursday came the glorious daytime that he had shone in for 3 wonderful years was about to turn to night, a very long night.

### Gethsemane

It is late Thursday evening, and the priests and the elders are meeting with Caiaphas in his palace and making plans to arrest our Jesus secretly and to put him to death. But a stranger has been brought into their midst, a young freedom-fighter, Judas Iscariot, a disciple of Jesus, saying that he could take them to Jesus that very night. They offer Judas, 30 silver coins to betray his Lord. He takes the money.

Meanwhile the crumbs of the last supper have been left behind in the upper room, as Jesus and his followers finish singing psalms and in the quiet of night leave Jerusalem through the North Gate, and cross the Kidron Valley, to the foot of the Mount of Olives. They stop when they get to his favourite rest spot, and enter the Garden of Gethsemane. The night was fragrant with both the figs and olives now in flower. Jesus asks the disciples to wait near the entrance, but beckons Peter, James and John to go further with him. Stay by this tree as I pray and keep watch says. Jesus is becoming more and more anxious. He falls to the ground and prays. He feels such great sorrow coming over his heart. A feeling of desolation as he enters his biggest ever prayer battle. The sorrow in his heart almost crushes him. He is full of grief and anguish. His disciples fall asleep. Jesus struggles on alone as he seems to be fighting Hell's full complement of evil spiritual forces. A single angel appears from heaven besides him and brings him strength to continue, but perhaps it also confirms to him that he must press on and win this battle alone, without God's powers, but as the substitute for the whole of humankind against the power of death and darkness. He carries on with more intensity, and prays so fervently under such stress that blood capillaries are bursting under his skin and it looks like he's sweating blood. He yearns to feel the support of his disciples, but they cannot stay awake even for one hour. He cries out Father, take this cup of suffering from me, but not my will but yours be done. He wakes his sleeping disciples and returns to pray, but they fall asleep again and again.

### There is weariness in the night

#### Arrest

But now there are footsteps in the dark. "Come on – wake up says Jesus, it is time for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners" A large crowd arrives in the garden, sent by the chief priests and the elders. Temple Guards, Levites, servants of the High Priests, all armed with swords and clubs. Judas is with them and approaches Jesus 'Teacher' he says and kisses him on the hand. Jesus looks deep into his disciples eyes "Do you betray me with a kiss".

That's the one, shouts a slave, and with drawn sword approaches Jesus. Peter lunges from the dark, and slices off the servant's ear. Jesus rebukes Peter, "Put your sword back, he who lives by the sword dies by the sword. Do you not know I could summon twelve armies of angels, 6000 for each of us, but I must drink from this cup of suffering in order for the scriptures to come true. He picks up the ear and restores it perfectly to the head of the servant called Malchus. Then the arresting mob, initially stunned, now pounce on the Rabbi, seize him and bind him with leather cords. One young follower who had joined the disciples at the garden is seized but he wriggles free of his tunic and runs off naked. The disciples, outnumbered by the armed posse, are fearful of their lives and run anywhere in the dark to escape.

### There is fear in the night – but joy comes in the morning.

#### Trial - Caiaphas

The small army march Jesus back to Jerusalem, and into the high priests palace. Temple guards wait for further instruction by charcoal fires in his courtyard. It is late but everyone is up and awake. Caiaphas the high priest sits behind a stone table trying to look important and menacing, as he listens to those brought into accuse Jesus, as he hold his illegal court meeting. The lying witnesses could not make their stories match up, and are dismissed. In frustration Caiaphas demands of Jesus, Tell me the truth under oath - are you the Messiah, the son of God? Jesus responds "That's what you say. But I am telling you now, that from this time on you will see the Son of Man sitting on the right of the Almighty and coming on the clouds of heaven". His words by their own definition of the law is not blaspheming God, but it is all Caiaphas has to go on.

'Blasphemy' shouts the High Priest and he tears his linen robe from top to bottom to demonstrate the depth of his shock and displeasure. "You heard his blasphemy, what do you think?"- "He is guilty and must die". Jesus is spat at, slapped and beaten.

Peter had followed Jesus from the shadows and boldly sneaks into the High Priests courtyard, where he mingles with the crowd around the charcoal fires. He is recognised but denies knowing Jesus. His Nazarene accent gives him away and he denies again. "Surely- you are one of his disciples" – "I swear I'm

telling the truth, I don't even know the man" . Then Peter hears the morning cockerel crow , and remembers Jesus saying ' Before the cock crows tonight you will say three times that you do not even know me".

Realising his own denials of his Lord, Peter breaks down and cries bitterly. He leaves the courtyard dejected.

There is **weeping and crying** in the night – but joy comes in the morning.

## **Trial - Pilate**

Caiaphas can not have Jesus executed himself, so he must convince Pilate that Jesus is claiming to be a King and acting as a revolutionary to overthrow Rome, and deserves death. Through the pre-dawn haze Caiaphas marches Jesus to the Governors palace, the Praetorium. Pilate, annoyed at being awoken early, agrees to take Jesus in for questioning, but can find no reason to condemn him. Learning he is from Nazareth he sends him to King Herod, ruler of Galilee, who is also in the capital for Passover. Herod mocks Jesus but he too finds no fault in him and sends him back to Pilate. Pilate knows Caiaphas wants Jesus dead, but if he is popular with the crowd, might there be a riot if he crucifies him. Pilate has an idea that might get him off the hook.

The religious rulers though are busy turning the morning temple crowd against Jesus, saying he is a blasphemer and threatens to destroy the temple. Pilate comes out to the judgement seat by the steps of the palace with Jesus, and brings with him another prisoner, one he thinks they will hate. Pilate offers to release one of his prisoners, as a gesture to the people. He has two both called Jesus, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, or Jesus bar Abbas, son of Abbas the murderer. The crowds including the priests, elders, and their own men cry out to release Barabbas. "But this other man has done nothing". "Crucify him" they shout. Pilate sees that he isn't getting anywhere and a riot is developing. So he sends for a bowl of water and washes his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours!". But once more he says to the crowd 'I found no reason to condemn him', but they shout even more 'Crucify Him'. 'Do you want me to crucify your king'. The shout comes back 'The only king we have is Caesar".

Hearing this, Pilate hands him over to the Roman soldiers to be whipped and crucified.

The soldiers take Jesus inside to the courtyard of the governor's palace and call together the rest of the company. They tie him to a post and use a leather whip with metal knotted into its thongs, they whip him severely until flesh falls off, and his back looks like a ploughed field flowing with blood down its furrows.

The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus, made a crown out of thorny branches, and put it on his head. Then they begin to salute him and mock him. "Long live the King of the Jews!" They beat him over the head with a stick, spit on him, fell on their knees, and bow down to him. When they had finished making fun of him, they take off his purple robe and put his own clothes back on him, then lead him out to be crucified.

The blood of Jesus flows freely down his face from the crown of thorns.

There is **pain** in the night – but joy comes in the morning.

## **Way of the Cross**

Judas realises Jesus is not going to call down his angel armies and defeat the Romans after all, and that he has betrayed an innocent man to death. He goes back to the chief priest and elders to return the silver coins "I have betrayed an innocent man" – "and what is that to us" they say. Judas throws the coins down onto the temple floor, then goes away and hangs himself.

Having been whipped savagely then condemned to death, Jesus is led away by the Roman soldiers. He is made to carry his heavy cross beam, but now barely alive he falls under its weight. A North African Jew from Cyrene, (now Tripoli, Libya) is marked out by his darker skin, and is seized by the Romans. Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry the cross beam. Two other prisoners, push on with him out through the city wall, and down a road lined with people mocking, shouting, and striking them with sharp reeds. The crucifix

uprights stood ready at the rocky outcrop called the skull cap, Golgotha (in Aramaic) or Calvary (in Latin). It is visible to the main road so that all travellers to Jerusalem can be reminded of what will happen to them if they disturb the Roman Peace.

At the cross, the Romans strip the three prisoners naked. They take the expensive seamless cloak that Jesus wore, weaved on a Galilean double loom, and throw dice to see who wins it.

They take the beam from Simon, and lie Jesus on it, and hammer nails through his hands into the cross-beam, then raise him up the pole, attached to the cross beam, nail it into position before nailing his feet to the upright. There he hangs, with a thief on his left and a thief on his right. People crowd round the cross and hurl more insults. "Aha! You were going to tear down the Temple and build it back up in three days! Now come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law made fun of Jesus, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself!"<sup>32</sup> Let us see the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him!". They laughed, jeered and mocked him. Jesus cries 'Forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing'.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The notice of the accusation against him said: "The King of the Jews."

There is **persecution and ridicule** in the night – but joy comes in the morning.

## Death

It was nine 'o' clock that Jesus was hung on the cross, three hours later at noon, the sun weakens and fails, the whole country is covered in darkness which lasts for three hours. As Jesus hangs on the cross in the dark, he takes into himself the sins of the world, and his Father in heaven can no longer be with his beloved Son. Aware of the separation, Jesus cries out "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Jesus declares 'It is Finished'. Then with a loud cry he gives up his Spirit and dies.

As Jesus dies, the heavy curtain hanging in the Temple, that separates Gods presence in the Holy of Holies, from the people, is miraculously torn in two, from top to bottom.

As Jesus dies, there is an earthquake which shakes Jerusalem, splits open the rock, and opens up the nearby tombs. Dead people are raised to life and walk out of the tombs

As Jesus dies, the Roman centurion at the foot of the cross, in the dark, in the earthquake, declares out loud "This man really was a Son of God!" The people beat their chests with their fists and walk away.

Jesus is dead, the disciples are scattered.

There is **loss and separation** in the night – but joy comes in the morning.

## Burial

There was a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea who was a member of the temple council, the Sanhedrin, but had not been there at the illegal trial. He was also a follower of Jesus, but in secret because of fear of the temple authorities. However the death of Jesus had made him no longer afraid and he boldly goes to Pilate in the evening, and asks for the body. Pilate is surprised that Jesus is dead already, but gives an order for the body to be released to the well-respected merchant. Nicodemus, another secret believer from the Sanhedrin helps Joseph and they take 30kg of spices for the burial. They wrap the body in linens and spices and place Jesus in Josephs own unused tomb, one that he had had cut out of rock in a garden very close to Golgotha.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared their own spices and perfumes, to anoint his body after the Sabbath day, in which they had to rest.

A big stone is rolled in front of the entrance of the tomb, to seal it, and the Romans place guards in front of it, as the temple authorities were worried that the disciples would steal the body. Jesus was entombed.

Heaven and earth has lost its beloved Lord. Hell is rejoicing that the one that was prophesied to defeat Satan has himself been crushed. The Priests and Pharisees are congratulating themselves on a job well done. They are back in full control of religious affairs.

Jesus is dead and buried, **defeat** has come in the night, but **joy** comes in the morning.

### **The Night is nearly over.**

The Sabbath came. The Sabbath went.

There has been **weariness** in the night  
There has been **fear** in the night  
There has been **weeping** in the night  
There has been **pain** in the night  
There has been **persecution and ridicule** in the night  
There has been **loss and separation** in the night  
There has been **defeat** in the night

It was a long night for Jesus. But the **night is now over** – and **joy** comes in the morning.

### **Resurrection**

After the rest day, as soon as the light was about to dawn, Mary Magdalene and some other women go with their prepared spices to anoint the body of Jesus, hoping that they could somehow gain access to the tomb. When they arrived they found the stone had been rolled away and the body gone. They feared the grave had been robbed. Mary went running to the disciples, and found Peter and John behind locked doors. "They have taken the body of our Lord, and we don't know where they've put him'.

Peter and John run to the tomb. Peter enters first. He sees the linen cloths lying there, and the cloth that had been around the head of Jesus separate to the rest of his wrappings. It was folded neatly. Then John entered the tomb. They knew that when a carpenter finishes his work, he takes off and folds his work clothes. Could Jesus, carpenter, Rabbi, and Lord of all, had really done this, because he had finished the work that he had come to do. Thinking no more could be learnt from the tomb, they left it and went home, leaving Mary Magdalene there crying.

Whilst she was still crying she bent over and leant into the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and one at the feet.

"Woman, why are you crying" they ask her.

"They have taken my Lord away and I don't know where they have put him"

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'

Mary is aware of another presence by her as she comes out of the tomb and her eyes readjust to light. She thinks she sees the Gardener.

"Woman why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for" He says

"If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." Then the new presence speaks her name 'Mary'. She recognises his voice in the same accented voice that had released her from seven demons, the voice that had brought her into a new life. She turns towards him and says "Rabboni" which is "Teacher" in Hebrew. It is Jesus. He is alive. Mary wants to embrace him, but he tells her not to touch him yet. Instead he sends her to tell the disciples the good news – He is Risen.

### **New Hope rises**

It was morning at last. Father God had not abandoned his son after all, but knew that only the sacrifice of a sinless person could defeat death, and in doing so defeat the consequences of the sins of the world, for those who believe. The only one never to have done wrong, the only perfect and spotless sacrifice was the son of God himself, Jesus Christ. The cost was paid once and for all, because the one perfect man took the place of all mankind.

Just like the torn curtain opened up access to the Holiest of Holies in the temple, the death of Jesus opened up a direct route for us to come into Gods presence, We no longer needed sacrifices of animals and temple priests, because of what Jesus did at Golgotha, we can boldly stand before God, and experience the presence of his Holy Spirit, knowing that we have been made acceptable to God by the blood of Jesus, spilt for us.

His blood shed on the cross was enough to finish the work. Enough to overcome the darkness. Enough to pay for all that you have ever done wrong or ever will do wrong. All the power that was needed is in that spilt life-blood of Jesus.

## Salvation

When you **accept** what Jesus has done for you on the cross, **believe** in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and **confess** it with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, then you are saved (Romans 10v9) by his resurrection power into a new morning, a new life, a new hope. Whoever you are, whatever you have done, whatever your journey, whatever your night, Jesus loves you and can save you.

You may feel at times imprisoned by your own circumstances, bound up in bad habits, bad emotions and bad attitudes. But Jesus has the power to break every chain and release you into a new life. He can transplant you from darkness into light. The Psalmist said (Ps 107v14) He brought them out of their gloom and darkness and broke their chains in pieces. You may have once been defeated by the World, but Jesus Christ has the victory, he won it on that cross, for you to take from him.

Jesus took captivity captive, to set you free.

He went through **his** night into **his** new morning, to help you go through **your** night into **your** new morning.

**You are forgiven, and restored with new peace, new strength and new belonging.**

## Forgiveness

Have you felt guilty in your night? Have you got a past that you are ashamed of? Temptation got the better of you, and you have been left feeling the pain of guilt and condemnation for what you have done. Beaten and defeated, not able to hold you head up high and rebuild your life. But that was the night. Once you accept what Jesus did on the cross for you, you can come to him and say sorry for the things you have done and receive his **forgiveness**. If you do this then your forgiveness is promised, its assured. Any accusations written against your account and wiped clean. Your debt is paid in full. You are a new creation, born again into a new life. .

As a Christian you are not defined by your past, you are defined by your future. It is not where you are have come from, it is where you are going that defines you. You may not have been able to choose your past, or may have made the wrong choices, but you have the power to choose your future, to choose Jesus, and give your life over to him, and the beautiful goals, purposes and plans that he has destined for you.

**There may be the pain of guilt in the night, but Jesus is risen: the joy of forgiveness comes in the morning.**

## Peace

Are you feeling persecuted or frightened in your night? Has it felt like the world is against you, made life difficult for you, made you feel small and inferior. Perhaps you have faced persecution for what you believe, and you are fearful. The bible says 365 times "Don't be afraid". One for every day of the year. The Bible says (Deut 31v8) Do not be afraid or discouraged, The LORD himself goes before you and he will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. " and Jesus himself said 'I will always be with you, even to the end of time'



As the psalmist says (Psalm 23v5) he prepares a banquet for you in the middle of your enemies, and he will fill your cup until it overflows. You can have fellowship with your Lord Jesus and rejoice in him whatever is going on around you. For he can protect you and bring you a peace which is beyond all understanding.

**There may be fear in the night. But Jesus is risen. The joy of his peace comes in the morning.**

### **Strength**

Are you just weary in your night? Has life worn you out. Are you feeling tired exhausted, perhaps even depressed and feel like giving up and times. Jesus promises to help you. He says “Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you **rest**.” The old prophet Isaiah (40v29-31) says that God gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who **trust** in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not grow faint.

If you are weary in the night, then ask Jesus to give you rest. Ask Jesus to renew your strength.

**There was weariness in the night. But Jesus is risen. The joy of his strength comes in the morning.**

### **Belonging**

Has there been separation and abandonment in your night? Have you felt lost and abandoned. Perhaps you have lost loved ones, friends and family, who have died, or migrated and left you. But when you accept Jesus as your Lord and saviour then you are adopted into God's family, you are a co-heir with Christ, you are a Son or daughter of the Living God. You are greatly loved by him, and there is nothing that can ever separate you from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[b]</sup> neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup>No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8 v38-39). *How can you feel inferior when the King of Kings has called you is infinitely precious child.*

We don't just have God we have each other. He calls us into His family. We experience his love shown to us by our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are called to love each other, support, each other, encourage each other, whatever church we belong too. 'Love each other' said Jesus 'as I have loved you'. They will know you are my disciples by the love you show one for another (John 13v35).

**There was separation in the night, but joy of his love comes in the morning**

### **Conclusion**

I stand before you today, as a man who counts himself very privileged and fortunate in many ways, but also as a man who like all of you has been through nights of pain, suffering, fear, separation, persecution loneliness, illness and weariness.

I was once ill for 7 years with a viral fatigue. I have had crushing blows where a number of ministries that took years to build, were taken off me and destroyed on purpose or by the negligence of others. Each time was a bitter blow that laid me low and took me time to recover. Even now I face a night in which my earthly Father who I love dearly is slowly getting more and more ill and will one day soon not recognise me.

But I stand before you today, and say that Jesus knew me long before I was born, he died for me on the cross and rose again, because he loves me. I put my trust in him nearly 40 years ago. He forgave me then, and he has forgiven me every day since. He has proven to me that he is a faithful God and has carried me through every night. He has brought peace to my anxiety, strength to my weariness, comfort in my loneliness, and brought healing to my pain, both mental and physical.

The same Love that rescued the earth lives in me; the same power that conquered the grave lives in me. He will live in you too. He will give you New Hope. He will bring you through your night into a glorious new day. He will love you, forgive you, and empower you with his resurrection power. Amen?

**There is pain in the night – but Joy comes in the morning.**

## Salvation

He brought them out of their gloom and darkness and broke their chains in pieces. (Ps 107v14)

**You are forgiven, and restored with new peace, new strength and new belonging.**

## Forgiveness

**There may be the pain of guilt in the night, but Jesus is risen: the joy of forgiveness comes in the morning.**

## Peace – Do not fear

Do not be afraid or discouraged - The LORD himself goes before you and he will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deut)

Jesus said 'I will always be with you, even to the end of time'

He prepares a banquet for you in the middle of your enemies, and he will fill your cup until it overflows. (Psalm 23v5)

**There may be fear in the night. But Jesus is risen. The joy of his peace comes in the morning.**

## Strength

“Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you **rest**.”

those who **trust** in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not grow faint. Isaiah 40v29-31.

**There was weariness in the night. But Jesus is risen. The joy of his strength comes in the morning.**

## Belonging

Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[b]</sup> neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. <sup>39</sup>No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

‘Love each other’ said Jesus ‘as I have loved you’. They will know you are my disciples by the love you show one for another (John 13v35).

**There was separation in the night, but Jesus is risen. The joy of his love comes in the morning**



