

# Jesus is risen



There is a beauty to our life in Christ, and it goes by these names:

*resurrection*

the end of exile

*new life*

joy

kingdom of God

*justice*

*forgiveness*

These realities express the beauty of our life in Christ. The thing about all of these words or ideas, though, is that each can be so elusive — hard to pin down or grasp. We experience joy and then it slips between our fingers and is gone. We know forgiveness but then rediscover residual bitterness sneaking back into our hearts. We see justice enacted and then see it so quickly overpowered by those who manipulate and take advantage.

But if there is something elusive about these realities in our own experience, the decisive declaration of our Easter Faith is that this beauty has become reality in a person — his name is Jesus. There is nothing elusive about Jesus. He is not an opaque metaphor for some other mysterious reality. Neither his justice nor his forgiveness is just a bunch of wishful thinking.

Our Easter Faith proclaims that the risen Jesus — in all of his particularity and specificity — is the hope of our lives and our world. At Kensington, all of our activities and programs and relationships and prayers are oriented around this central and fixed point of our faith: that the crucified one has risen, and that his life has become our life. Without such hope, the church is nothing.

## **from *Living Faith***

Jesus' resurrection means that our faith is not empty, that final victory is assured over all evil powers which destroy and deform life, and that death, the least enemy is conquered... The destructive powers are still present. But their end is not in doubt!

*over...*

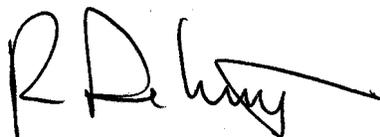
Our celebration of Easter, of resurrection hope in Christ, will take place on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at the usual worship time of 10:30 a.m.

On the way to Easter, of course, we also walk through the reality of suffering and darkness — through the longing and sadness of Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Our Good Friday service will also be held at the usual time (of 10:30 a.m.), on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Following the Good Friday service, a pot-luck lunch will be held at the home of the De Vries family, and you are invited to join us.

Through the Season of Lent, the kids of the congregation have played an important part in our worship services, and this will continue on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday mornings. Their expressions of faith and their embodiment of hope is a source of encouragement both to them and to all of the adults of the congregation. We are grateful for their willingness to share their gifts with us.

My prayer for each one of us in this special season of the Church year, is that we will discover Jesus in his loving particularity. After all, that is our goal — to be drawn ever deeper into his life and his joy and his justice and his compassion. Knowing him, and living with him, is our goal.

Sincerely in the love of our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. De Vries". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.