

The Rev'd Gregory Roberts

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Dear Fr James and the Dae-Hak-Ro Church family,

Alleluia Christ is Risen!

It has been an unprecedented few weeks. We have followed your experience in Korea and churches here have been closed for the last three weeks. We have been living with restrictions in order to impede the movement of the Covid 19 virus but daily deaths are still high. We have followed the experience of Korea and it has been really good to hear first-hand from Agnes.

At All Saints' Church we are not able to celebrate Easter together as we normally do with our church family, with liturgy, the ringing of bells and the singing of joyful hymns. Instead, we will experience the mystery of the empty tomb and the encounter with our risen Lord in our homes and behind closed doors and with a service broadcast from my garden on Facebook. As you can very well imagine many people are worried and fearful at this time, many are separated from family members and some are grieving. Yet despite the challenging and painful situation the world is in, the message of Easter continues to be one of joy and hope.

Mary went to the tomb. She went to mourn and to anoint the body of Jesus, yet the tomb was empty. Mary wanted to be close to Jesus the one who gave her life meaning and whose death caused the disciples to hide in fear. We may do the same when someone dies – we may feel the need to maintain a link – we tend their graves – we may cherish a special gift they gave. Yet it is in this place of sadness and mourning that the resurrection was first announced.

Easter provides an enormous injection of hope. And it is certainly needed. The tomb is found to be empty. God's love is stronger than death. This Easter we feel the pain of family, friends, colleagues, the world and the pain in our own hearts. But the story does not end in death. The message of Easter doesn't take away the pain but does provide meaning. It gives hope.

We will gather again. We will be with family again. As Her Majesty said, we will meet again, and we will be changed by this experience.

My prayer for us and for us all is that we may we be strengthened in our faith, in our community and may we know the peace of God to be with us.

Every Blessing, Fr Greg