



# St John's Cathedral 聖公會聖約翰座堂

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Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong Island  
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

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## Message of Hope: The risen Lord is with us!

20th April 2020  
*The Revd Amos Poon*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Peace be with you!

We read about the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in the past Sunday Gospel passage, and I hope that Jesus' resurrection not only brings comfort to the disciples but also brings comfort to all of us.

The Gospel of John beginning at Chapter 20 verse 19, the Bible says "When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews." Fear and anxiety described the feeling of the disciples on the first Easter day. Because of the fear, they hid themselves. Perhaps this same feeling may also describe what we are facing everyday. The disciples locked the doors for the fear of the Jews, and today we lock the doors for the fear of the virus outbreak.

Yet, one important question is, whether Jesus has separated from us because of social distancing, because of the isolation, because of the fear?

The passage then reads: "Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord." We could see, although the doors are locked, the disciples live in fear, yet The Lord is still there being with them.

The risen Lord being with us, such good news gives me at least three important messages.

The first message is, the Lord is the one who is willing to search for his people, to be with us. Though all public services are closed, the Lord didn't go away. Jesus sees the fear in us, and he is willing to actively come to our place, and be there with us. He is the one who is willing to come to those who believe in him.

Secondly, we could see that the Lord is a loving God. After his resurrection, Jesus did not go to those who oppressed him and show them he is risen. Instead, he chose to go to the people whom he loved. He went to Mary and his disciples, and showed them his hands and his side, telling them this joyful news that He is risen today. Just as John chapter 13 told us, "Having loved his own who were in the world, Jesus loved them to the end."

The third message is, the resurrection of our Lord also shows us that the God we believe in is the God who has the power over death. He is the ruler of the universe, the ruler of past, present and future. He is risen. He conquered death and darkness and bring us light. So today, we need to carry this hope, having faith that the world isn't ruled by chaos. The only ruler of the world is our Lord. This virus outbreak will end one day, and the history of humankind is in God's hand.

Brothers and sisters, I hope that the risen Lord will bring you comfort and hope, because he is the one who is willing to be with us, the one who loves us and the one who is the ruler of the world.

May God Bless you all. Amen.