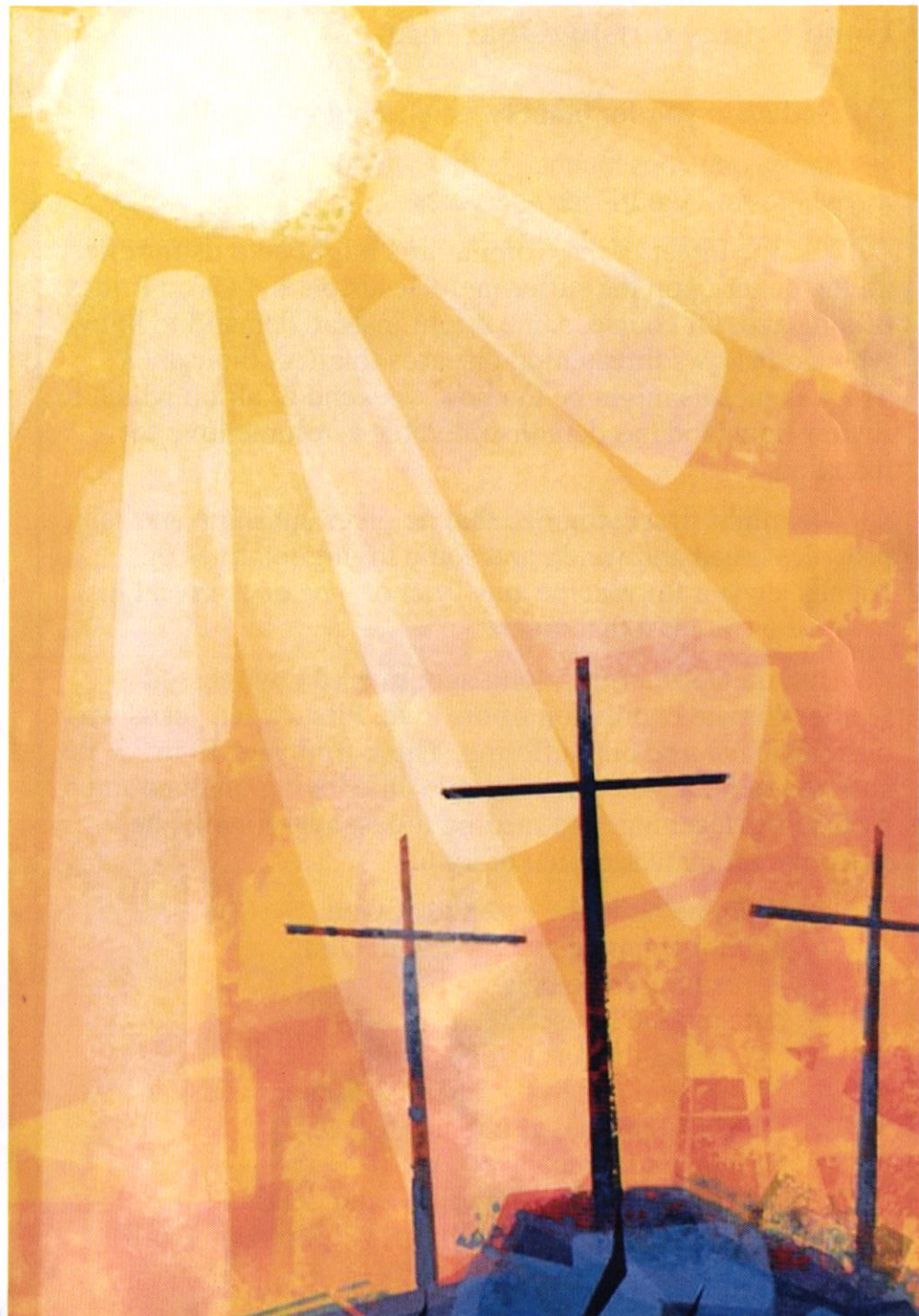


Easter Blessings

FROM ALL OF US AT
LIVING CARE



Good Friday during Quarantine?

God *bless* you for humbly “sheltering in place!”

Sadly, one consequence is that we don't get to gather anywhere for Good Friday services.

Yet, the threat of the Coronavirus might help us to reflect all the better upon the suffering of Jesus on that Good Friday of long ago. Of course, some might instead demand to know why God allows threatening diseases to affect thousands. Truly, then, this might be the best weekend of all on which to review how God has demonstrated his awesome love for mankind.

We might first recognize that he gives sunshine and rain, provides bread and water, and some loving relatives or friends, even a flu vaccine and Tylenol – he does reveal his love for us, at least that much.

But, on Good Friday, long ago, mankind witnessed God's ultimate expression of his love. First, when Jesus was born, God *entered* our suffering. Then, from age 30 to 33, he suffered tremendous persecution, while loving on mankind by healing, teaching, and feeding thousands! Finally, he made the ultimate sacrifice of love:

Who, being in the essence of God,
did not count being equal with God
a thing to be held onto,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being made in the likeness of men; and
being present as a man,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient even unto death—
the death of the cross! (Philippians 2:6-8)

Yes, God entered human suffering, and suffered more than any! – he took the punishment for the sins of us all as he hung on that cross – he *does* love us – he *does* care!

And Jesus then rose from the dead, providing victory over death! So, whether we live through the present pandemic, or die from it, we may have hope. Indeed, if we have declared our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we have everlasting life. And, eventually, each of us will even have a resurrected, transformed body like Jesus has:

For our citizenship is in heaven;
from where also we wait for a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ:
who shall fashion anew our humble body,
to be like his glorious body
(Philippians 3:20-21)

Of course, we still do pray, in the name of Jesus, for deliverance, right now, from disease, according to God's mercy and grace – God often says Yes to such prayers. And even if he says No, he can provide peace of mind:

Do not be anxious in anything;
but in everything,
by prayer and supplication [asking fervently]
with thanksgiving [so important!]
let your requests be made known unto God.
And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
shall guard your hearts and your thoughts
in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

God bless you with His peace, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins on that Good Friday long ago, and rose again at the break of the third day – Hallelujah!

- Chaplain Rick Bradley