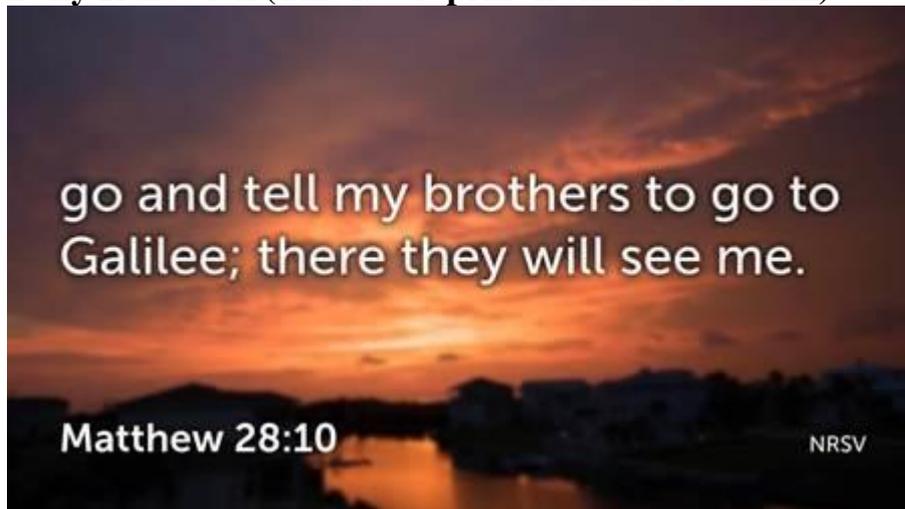


Dear Ipswich City Church Family

# Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

A very happy Easter to you all!!!

**Daily Reflection (This is a reprint from the Newslink)**



**I am with you always.**

*"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."* Matthew 28:10 (NRSV)

In over 52 years of life I have never missed out on gathering with God's people on an Easter weekend. I have only once missed an Easter Sunday, but on that Good Friday I preached to over a thousand people at the Easterfest Good Friday service.

This time in our history is very strange. I believe when it is safe we must regather and although I know not everyone likes the passing of the Peace, it will be a great day when we can shake a hand or share an embrace. When the risen Jesus met the women Matthew's Gospel records that "Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him." (Matthew 28:9 NRSV) If anything before Corona Virus our culture needed more genuine gathering, community and meeting. Now we need less.

Although this is a strange time there is also something familiar about it, something central to our faith. As Christians it is our Experience that even when we are isolated, the risen Jesus is with us. He is with us by the work of the Spirit. Matthew's Gospel finishes with those famous words, "And

remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20 NRSV)

This presence of Jesus is real not only when we are physically distanced from our church community, it is real even when we are separated from Jesus by sin. In the reading you will hear in online worship on Sunday Jesus tell the women that he is going to Galilee to meet the male disciples who abandoned him including Peter who denied him. He even calls them “brothers”. We can’t be Jesus but in this world with phones and internet we can dimly reflect what he does and be present to others even when we are apart.

*Lord, Thank you that you are with us always through the risen Jesus through your Spirit. Help us to be present to others even when we are apart. In His Name we pray. Amen.*

Rev Andrew  
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Yours in Jesus

Andrew

**Rev. Andrew Gillies**