# Moderator’s Easter Message 2023

## Transcript of video message

“I have seen the Lord.” This is what Mary Magdalene says to the disciples on the morning of Christ’s resurrection. In another account: “Do not be afraid,” Jesus says to the women, “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; that is where they will see me.”

Jesus Christ is risen this Easter morn, hallelujah! Alléluia!

Later, Paul tells the church in Colossae, “So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth…”

My grandmother once told me, when I was particularly strident about a social justice issue: “I certainly hope you have not forgotten the resurrection, and that we are an Easter people. We believe in hope.”

I sighed in exasperation as young people can do, I think I rolled my eyes, and I said: “No, Grandma, I won’t forget that we are an Easter people.”

And I don’t.

Michael Shewburg said to me earlier this year: “The church restructured, and then the pandemic came and the world restructured.”

Sometimes, it can feel as if this world is shifting under our feet—or maybe, more accurately, we are adrift at sea, sometimes getting tumbled in the waves and not knowing which way is up. But we have moments when we can break through to the surface, and we see the horizon.

It is important in this circumstance, for our survival, to look always to the horizon.

One of my favourite writers, a futurist and game designer named Jane McGonigal, talks about the importance of looking to the horizon—or what she calls “future episodic thinking.” When you can imagine both the worst that could happen, and the best future you’d want to see, you put in place the building blocks to manage either. If you’ve imagined the worst that could happen, you are able to think through how you respond. But if you imagine what you would like to have happen, say, 10 years into the future, you can live into that hope, and put the building blocks into place and work towards that future vision.

And this is what we are about as the church at Easter. The reality is that Jesus was crucified and died—the worst happened. But we are reminded each year at Easter that death did not overcome life. With images of dawn breaking on the horizon, let us listen to Paul’s words to the Colossians and set our minds to that radical hope that is the Easter promise. In that hope, what can we imagine together: towards right reconciliation? for world peace? for economic justice? for climate justice? for the rural church? for the future of our denomination? Let’s imagine all of our hopes for a just and peace world together, practising deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.