

### Rev Tom's Message

As I sit down to write this *Contact* message, I'm aware that many of you will read it on **Wednesday of Holy Week**. When I first began writing these messages, I would usually prepare them on a Tuesday and send them to the church office, where they would be included in the preparation and publication that happened on Wednesday.

Back in **2012**, things were a bit different. *Contact* was printed and distributed as hard copies on Sunday mornings. That meant during Holy Week that year, I knew my message would be read **after Easter Sunday**. Naturally, I wrote with that in mind—celebrating the theme: "*Jesus is risen!*"

Today, however, most people receive *Contact* via email—on the **same day it's prepared**, Wednesday. A smaller number still pick up printed copies on Sunday. So, here's my question: **During Holy Week, what theme do I write to?**

Because Holy Week isn't just about Easter Sunday.  
It's a journey.

In our congregation, we begin that journey together on **Maundy Thursday**, recalling how Jesus gave his final instructions—not just with words, but with powerful symbols. He knelt to **wash the disciples' feet**, urging them (and us) to serve one another in humility. He broke the bread and shared the cup, saying, "*This is my life—broken in love, poured out in grace.*"

Then came **Friday**—Jesus' arrest, his arraignment, persecution, and ultimately, his death and burial. And after that, **the long wait**.

Until the morning when the tomb is found empty.  
*Jesus is risen.*

It is, indeed, a journey. A **tumultuous journey**, one that echoes the mystery of our own lives—the suffering, the waiting, the hope. The rhythms of Holy Week speak to the deep forces that shape the universe and our very souls.

So... what do I say today?

Perhaps instead of saying something *to* you, I offer an **invitation**:

As we continue this sacred path toward Sunday, enter into your own journey.

Lent is designed as a season of reflection, and Holy Week brings that reflection to its depth. With public holidays on both Friday and Monday ahead, you may have some quiet space. Use it.

Make a cup of tea. Find a comfortable chair.  
Sit. Reflect.

What is your **faith story**—woven through your whole life story?

When have you experienced **sacred moments**, like Maundy Thursday?

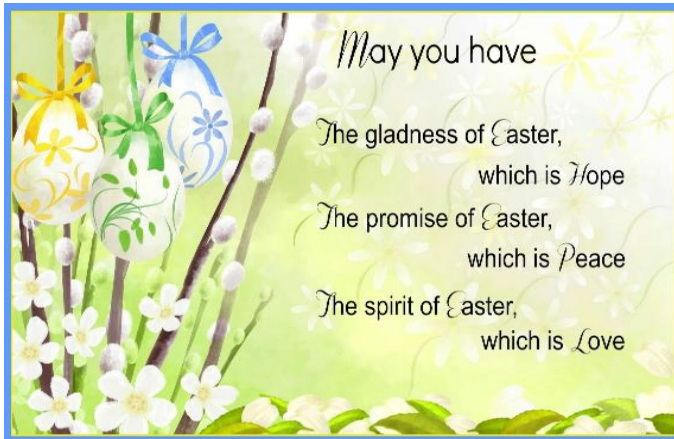
When have you felt the **wounds and losses** of Good Friday?

And for all the endings in your life—when have you found yourself **rising again**? Albeit bearing the scars. But alive! And loved.

The value of this *Contact* message is yours to find.

You are invited to remember: **your life is steeped in Good News.**

From Cathy Beeton:



Crown of thorns, Cross, White linen, Stone.

I had the older children read the bible passages related to each section of the Easter story for example The Triumphant Entry while this was being read a palm leaf was given out to go into their bag.

The Last supper – a picture of bread & wine, Jesus praying in the garden – a picture of praying hands, Story of betrayal – a silver coin, Peter's denial – feather, Mocking of Jesus – Crown of thorns picture, Jesus on the Cross – a cross I made out of twigs, Burial – a piece of white linen, Resurrection – a stone to represent the stone rolled away. It is hoped that they will take these bags home & bring them out over Easter & retell the story to family or even just to remind themselves. **It was a wonderful lesson.**



**I have also added a photo of my daughter Jenna & I with elephants in the background, we had the most wonderful time in South Africa, the animals were just a small part of the adventure. We are so blessed to be able to do this together.**



**General Announcements:**

17 April - **Maundy Thursday** Service 6:30 pm @ Garden Suburb Church – including light meal

18 April – **Good Friday** Service 9 am @ Charlestown Church

20 April – **Easter Sunday** Service 9 am @ Charlestown Church

3 May – **Friendship Circle** – Mothers' Day Celebration – Dinner with Netdippers! – 11:15 am for 11:30 am for morning tea, then talk, lunch @ 12:30 pm. RSVP 27<sup>th</sup> April to Sue Warren or Grahame Prichter

28 May – **Biggest Morning Tea** - 10 am @ Charlestown Church – look out for more details  
Contact: Sue Warren

