

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group

April 2017

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28: 5-6

After discovering Jesus' tomb open and empty and having heard from the angels about the resurrection we are told that the women fled with a mix of fear and joy. We also know that the disciples they rushed to tell were deeply discouraged and fearful, having lost all hope.

When Jesus appears to them "peace be with you" are the first words he speaks, dispelling their discouragement, despair and fear.

Despite the desertion of his disciples and the despair of the women, Jesus offers them new life, forgiveness and hope for the future. We too can find healing and hope in Him, knowing that he came that we might have life in all its fullness. The risen Christ, in His profound love, makes it possible for all of us to have second chances, new beginnings and fresh hope.

So many things can make us afraid or despondent and leave us feeling hopeless. We live in a deeply wounded and uncertain world but Easter offers the assurance that the difficulties and challenges that can threaten to overwhelm us will be overcome.

Jesus said to his frightened disciples, "Do not be afraid."
To us he says, "Do not be afraid."
He offers us joy, peace, forgiveness and hope.

How can we his people share this great offer with the broken, hurting, fearful world we live in?

This month we give thanks

that joy, peace, forgiveness and hope our ours in Christ.

This month we pray for

light in the darkness for those living in fear – especially our migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking brothers and sisters,

the governments of the world who have the power to offer refugees the opportunity to start new lives and to live in safety,

those who support people who have suffered from trauma, that they may be filled with compassion, love and hope.

Contributed by Denise Wright