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Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

It is with words like these that Christians have been greeting one another on Easter morning for centuries and for generations. There is something so powerful in a tradition that is passed on from one era to another, which reminds us of that on which our entire Church experience rests. Whenever we gather, whatever the liturgy or occasion may be, we do so not because Jesus was born in a manger but rather because Jesus rose from the dead! In Jesus Christ, we have been given life eternal, joy, hope, forgiveness of sin, blessings innumerable ... Because Jesus broke the bonds of death and did what was previously not even imaginable, we gather, Christians around the globe, century after century, to proclaim the One Truth we all hold in common: Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia!

As we enter the Easter Season, I invite you to open yourselves to new opportunities for faith, for hope, for new life. Easter has never been meant to be one particular Sunday, or even just a series of Sundays that last only until Ascension. Easter is a season in your own life that unfolds for you the gift that is the new life that God envisions for you both now and in eternity. Embrace this season. Receive it as an opportunity for newness and adventure. Consider asking God what this Easter season has in store for you... Is God calling you to new ministries? Maybe you are being presented with challenges you never foresaw. Allow yourself to receive all that God has waiting for you with the anticipation and joy, and yes, even the apprehension with which the disciples themselves received their Easter season.

Jesus Christ did a new thing, an unexpected thing, an unimaginable thing – he rose from the dead, and in doing so, he didn't just break the bonds of death – he broke the bonds of the impossible! God has invited you, through your very Baptism, to join in the work of doing what once was impossible but which is now a certainty. I invite you to do two things this Easter season: join us in Church every Sunday so that together we may discern what new certainty God is calling the Church, and you – as an individual Christian – to; and do that Easter work of living the truth in your own life that Christ is risen and with his rising he gave you the gift of doing a new and wonderful, and not impossible thing!

Happy Easter and God bless you!

Bishop Rachael Parker