

Reflection Easter Monday 2022

The psalmist says: *Lord, you will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right-hand happiness for ever.* Having lied to frame Jesus and have him put to death, the Jewish leaders now produce another lie to cover up his resurrection. This is not the path we wish to take but, in recognising Jesus as the light, we seek his guidance in following the right path that recognises and values people and opens them to the Light that brings Life.

If we experience new life and hope for the future, despite the difficult realities we face at present, this is far from true for the Ukrainian people who continue to suffer inhumane suffering and brutality. They are still struggling up the hill of calvary bearing a bloodied cross without any clear end in sight. Any sense of Joy for these people lies far in the future. Whenever we reach out to those struggling to survive in our local communities because of lack of food or the ability to pay for utilities, we help increase hope in the world, a hope that may offer strength to the Ukrainian people in their struggle to survive.

A prayer for Ukraine

Holy and Gracious God, we pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders. Hold those who experience grave fear in your arms. Guide those who have power over life and death to choose for all people life in all its fullness. We pray that those who choose war will remember that you direct your people to turn swords into ploughshares and seek for peace. We pray that world leaders be inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ. Above all, Lord, we pray in the name of your blessed Son for peace for Ukraine. Amen