

ST. MATTHEW'S

The Anglican Church in the Glebe

Easter 2026

Dear St. Matthew's,

We will be celebrating Easter during yet another war. We have experienced four years of war in the Ukraine, two years of war in Gaza, and now a maddeningly pointless war in Iran. All these conflicts began for foolish reasons at best, sinister reasons at worst. We are also celebrating Easter in the midst of our lives which may be filled with complicated and conflicting experiences and emotions. This may be a time when we are grieving, or overwhelmed or distracted. Amid all the chaos of our world and within our own lives, what does it mean to set aside time and energy to celebrate the joy of Easter?

For me personally, celebrating Easter means to come and see the empty tomb, when the world is telling us to run away. When we are feeling overwhelmed, it is common to wish to detach. In a time of chaos, we often choose to disengage. However, Easter calls us to show up: to attend the feast, to worship the Lord, to visit the empty tomb. In a world that can shut us down, Easter is meant to wake us up and invite us to come and see.

This invitation to “come and see” can be particularly challenging to those in a state of chronic crisis. To those struggling with food and housing security, with sickness, chronic pain, mental illness or distress: the gospel is intended to bring good news to those folks in particular. Jesus is abundantly clear “the poor and sick” are to be the first inheritors of the Kingdom of God. Yet I believe the church struggles to create communities where this feels possible, especially on our highest feast days.

Easter Sunday can be nothing if not intimidating. We observed the crucifixion of Jesus mere days ago, with a stark wooden cross reminding us of the depravity of the human condition, but on Sunday morning this cross is decorated with flowers, evoking joy and life triumphing over evil. The lived experience of Easter morning can create a challenging disconnect for those living in crisis. It can feel next to impossible to perform joy in community when our life might feel anything but joyful.

I cannot easily repair this disconnect, but I can promise you this: you can come to Easter Sunday in your pyjamas, with Easter chocolate on your face and tears in your eyes, and you will be welcomed into a holy space and holy community. I cannot make Easter not filled with bright light, but I can promise you will hear the words of eternal life offered without condition or price no matter who you are, no matter what you have done, and no matter how much you are suffering or have suffered.

For our parish to truly follow the words of the Holy One, everyone must always be welcomed, loved and included without question. In a time of chaos and grief we must offer a place of healing and peace. In a time of division and strife, we must be a community of love and fellowship. In a time of incredible wealth inequality, we must recognize that everyone who can give any gift is truly generous and helpful.

For our church to be a true church, we must become a community, make a liturgy, and share a theology that is the authentic embodiment of Jesus Christ in our world. Jesus welcomed all, he ate and drank with sinners and outcasts and Jesus Christ brought the Kingdom of God into our world.



The Rev. Geoffrey Chapman