



THE ARCHBISHOP  
OF CANTERBURY



ches around the world.

**"Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."**

(Luke 20:38)

This past year has, undoubtedly, been one of the strangest we have ever known. The Covid-19 pandemic transformed the way we live around the world. It has been a year of much loss, grief and suffering for many all over the globe, made worse by our inability to comfort one another in the usual ways. We have been confronted with our mortality and our fragility as human beings, but also with our interdependence and interconnectedness.

In His life and death on the Cross, Jesus enters into the pain, uncertainty and confusion that are a part of human life. He lives amongst the sick, the broken and the suffering. He ministers to the outcast and the marginalised. There is no space between us and the God who comes to live among us. God has been close to us in our suffering this year, He has heard our cries, and He has felt our pain. We have not suffered alone.

In Christ's passion and death, He experiences the depths of humanity. As the Father raises Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit a new day dawns for the world. Death is conquered and overcome, and the one who was dead but is now alive transforms despair into hope and hatred into love. By His resurrection, He calls us all to eternal life with Him. He reveals the truth: that death lies to us. It does not have the final word.

Across the world we look towards the promise of the vaccine, and rebuilding society after the tumult of the last year. We take our places as salt and light in the world, remembering that, as Christians, we are called to keep our eyes fixed not on 'normal' life, but on the eternal life Jesus promises us in His Kingdom. That is our ultimate hope and our salvation.

May we find comfort and hope in the God who died for us, and may we proclaim His name in the confidence that He is risen indeed.

+Justin Cantuar:

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby

Archbishop of Canterbury

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