

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As Lent comes to a close, and we begin to prepare for the holiest season of the church year, I cannot help but think about the words of Jesus to Mary Magdalene outside the empty tomb on that first Easter Sunday morning: *“Do not cling to me I am ascending to my*

Father and your Father, to my God and your God Go and tell everyone what you have seen” This experience, that only moments before had been a point of Mary’s darkest grief and despair, became for her a new and transformed reality as she met with joy, the promise and presence of the risen Christ.

In his lifetime, Jesus had offered hope to those who were hopeless, healing to those who were broken, sight to those who were blind, food to those who were hungry, warmth to those who were cold, peace to those who were frightened, dignity to those who were shamed, mercy to those who were treated unjustly, love to those who were not loved, and most of all, God to those who did not know God. Now, in his death, he offered yet another gift: hope in a life that transcended the boundaries of a visible and material death and that invited others to join with him as one coming into the full presence of the ever-living God. This Easter, we remember the gift of this holy life he bequeathed us. We remember that before Jesus died and lived again, he first lived as one of us and taught us how to live as well. And finally, we remember that we have no need to cling too tightly to those things which comfort us for fear of what we might lose, because no matter where we are, no matter what happens to us, no matter that we cannot fully understand, we do know that we are not alone and we need not fear, for his God is our God. May this Easter season and all the promises it brings, bless you and your loved ones with the peace of God which passes all understanding and may you know in your heart the joy that rests in the fullness of the risen Christ.

Please join us for services during holy week. Sunday April 5th, Palm Sunday/The Sunday of the Passion, we begin with prayers in the hall, processing around the building (weather permitting) then into the chapel for the service. Wednesday April 8th we will have a Healing Service, which includes anointing with oil blessed by the bishop earlier in the week, and the laying on of hands for those who choose it. There will also be a memorial to loved ones as part of the service. On Thursday April 9th, Maunday Thursday, we will have a service of hand-washing and stripping of the altar at 7:00 p.m. in the evening. Friday April 10th, St. Ambrose will be hosting the Double “A” Parish Good Friday services at 9:00 a.m. At sunrise, Sunday April 12th, there will be the traditional ecumenical Easter Sunday service in the park in Redcliff, (near the water tower) followed by breakfast at Gordon Memorial United Church. At 11:15 we will have our traditional Easter Sunday service at All Saints. As he opened his arms to us, so we open ours to you. Please know you are welcome.

Your sister in Christ,

Rev. Ronda Ploughman
All Saints Anglican Church, Medicine Hat
Easter 2009