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The Sun Still Rises

By The Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker

Have you ever woken up to a gray, cloudy morning, and it's hard to believe the sun is even up? Here in Virginia, a chilly, overcast day in April can feel just as normal as a bright, sunny one.

That's a little like the world after the first Easter morning.

The world keeps turning as usual, even with the incredible news of Jesus' Resurrection having taken place. And for us, just because Easter happened doesn't mean our fears suddenly disappear. The same anxieties and worries still linger. The same sadness and frustration remain over the way things are.

If "Christ is truly risen indeed," why do things feel so...ordinary? Where is the extraordinary change that we expect?

The explanation for us is that sin and its effects are still here. Jesus' Resurrection has not erased the presence of brokenness in this world or in

our hearts. We still see violence in the world around us. We still fall short in our relationships. We still wrestle with frustration and doubt. We still live in bodies that grow weary, achy, sick, and aged.

God doesn't sweep the world's troubles under a carpet or let us pretend everything is fine. God shows us the truth: something is still deeply wrong.

And the Gospel tells us a deeper truth: The solution for all that is broken has come. Christ is alive! And that good news changes everything, even if it doesn't feel like it yet.

For if Christ is alive, then sin no longer has the final word. Death loses its grip over us. The powers of Satan and evil are defeated. And when we one day stand before God, we won't be defined by our failings or measured by how well we managed to get it all right. We will only be seen through the Crucified and Risen Christ.

It's important to remember that the first witnesses of the Resurrection didn't immediately feel triumphant. They were confused, uncertain, and worried. Mary didn't recognize Jesus at first. Thomas and the others doubted. Mary Magdalene wept. Some hid behind locked doors.

In the middle of all the emotions and uncertainty, the truth remained: Jesus was risen! He was alive.

That is the beauty of the Gospel. Even when we don't see the fullness of Christ's work yet, even when we don't always feel it, the truth of the Resurrection doesn't depend on us.

On the days your faith feels weak, or when the weight of the world feels heavy, Christ is still risen. Because He lives, your future is secure, your sins are forgiven, and death has no claim on you.

Just as Jesus called Mary by name at the tomb, and she recognized Him, so you, too, are called by name. You may not see the fullness of God's kingdom yet, but the truth remains:

Everything has changed.

Even when it doesn't feel like it. Even as we live in this time of the "already, but not yet."

Christ is alive.

In the First Letter of John, we are called upon to open our eyes and hearts to what God is doing, even if we don't see it fully. John writes:

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are...What we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

So, when things feel rather ordinary and you're going about the mundane tasks of life, when nothing seems to have changed, and when the sky may even feel gray, remember the sunrise.

The sun does not wait for the clouds to clear before it rises. It is already there, risen, unshaken, and shining, whether we can see it or not.

In the same way, Christ is risen. You can rest in that truth. Rest in him, knowing you have been called by name. You don't have to have it all together and understand it all completely. You simply get to rest in what is already true. His Resurrection is already at work, bringing life and hope, whether you can see it yet or not.

A blessed Easter season to you and yours!

Please enjoy this [hymn](#) as you ponder these remarks.

