

# *Alleluia!*

The Lord is Risen Today

## **The Children's Easter**

April 11, 2020

4:00pm

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**Welcome Everyone!**

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## Welcome

### **The Story of God's Saving Love**

*Illustrated by the children of St. James'*

Reader:

Today, we are going to tell a few stories that take us on a journey from the very beginning of creation to the most important time in history; a time that would change us all forever. It is the story of a partnership. In the beginning, before there was anything, there was God, and a huge swirling glob of rocks and water with no place to go. But God had a beautiful idea of something to do with all this mass that was not much of anything. God collected rocks from the huge swirling glob and put them together in clumps. God said some of these clumps of rocks would be called planets, some would be bright shining stars and some would remain...just rocks. God then collected water and put it together in pools and said some of these pools would be large oceans, some would be white fluffy clouds, and some water would just...stay water. God might have stopped right then and it would have been very beautiful, but God was not done yet. On some of the rocks, God placed growing things and creeping things and things that only God knows what they are. Then, God made a man and a woman from some of the dust and water. God called the man Adam and the woman Eve. God told Adam and Eve that they had a very important place in all this beauty. They were to care for and manage all of the land and the plants and the animals. Well, as you can imagine, Adam and Eve said that they could not do this all alone. They needed God to guide and help them. God made Adam and Eve a promise. He said together, they would be partners in caring for all that God had created. No matter what happened, every day they would be together forever enjoying the work and the pleasure of caring for this amazing creation...the world that God had made. And so our journey with God began.

### **Song ~ *That was very good***

Over the many years that passed, the world that began simply had grown with animals, plants and people. The close working relationship that God had hoped for, didn't happen as God had planned. His people always thought they had a better idea, and didn't listen to God's voice of God's guidance. So the beauty of the world was dimmed by things that hurt people and hurt creation. God was still working very hard to return the world to best it could possibly be. But His people were not always working along with Him. On many occasions, people turned away from God's plans and God's love and God's voice. This saddened God. He tried to get their attention, but no one listened. God had to do something drastic. He decided to start over. Instead of losing all of His amazing creations, God chose Noah and his family to save two of every animal along with his family to start again. But even the animals could be very difficult. When the time came for Noah to round up all the animals for the ark, he almost gave up when he had to get the birds in their nesting place. The best spot within the ark for the birds was a long beam with one window at the end. The parrots immediately claimed the best space and would only allow the flamingos next to them who would allow only the canaries next to them who would allow only the cardinals next to them who would allow only the blue jays next to them. This went on down the line until only the dove and raven were left to squish on the end of the beam. After all the other birds said they were just too plain. God sent the flood and after 150 days and nights in the ark everyone and everything was going crazy. They wanted out! Noah opened the window next to the parrots and asked them to fly out and check to see if all was clear to leave. The parrots said,

“Don’t be ridiculous! My feathers are much too beautiful. Send the flamingo!” Well as you can imagine each bird passed the buck down the line until the raven just flew off. Many hours passed with no sign of the raven. Noah, was worried, and asked for a bird to go off and find the raven. The only bird willing to go and search for the raven was the dove. The dove flew in the windy weather for a long, long time. Just as the dove was ready to give up, she found the raven sitting in an olive tree eating olives. The dove asked the raven, “Where have you been? Let’s go tell our friends its ok to come out.” The raven said “Friends, what friends? Those other birds don’t care if we come back. Stay here and no brightly colored birds will make fun of us ever again.” The dove didn’t agree and flew back to the ark to tell everyone what she found. When she returned to the ark, no one believed her. The dove got more determined to prove there was land, and flew back to the raven. The raven told her “I told you they are no good. Do you want to stay with me and eat olives?” The dove said “No, just give me one olive branch.” While the dove was gone, the other birds began to feel badly and worry for their friends. Maybe they should have believed the dove. The dove, with an olive branch in her beak, was exhausted from her many journeys and sad in spirit looked ahead and couldn’t believe what she saw. It was a rainbow rising out of the sea. This was an extraordinary rainbow of feathers made from a tower of birds that showed the way to the ark. In the morning, the bird rainbow was gone but God created one as a symbol of his promise to never start over again. And the journey continues.

**Song ~ *The Rain began A’Fallen***

Many more years passed with many more lessons to be learned by God’s people. God provided commandments with the help of Moses. Yet still not everyone listened. But God never gave up. God kept his vision of the world he had created and the world he loved so much, even though time and time again, His people didn’t honor their end of the partnership. Everyone was caught up - honoring things other than God; treating others with hate and cruelty; wasting land and its resources; even forgetting to be thankful for life and its miracles. How could God get the attention of His people? Remembering that He promised to never flood the world again, God decided it was time to show His people how much He truly loved them. This idea would be the ultimate gift. God gave His people a baby. Not just any baby but God’s own son, Jesus. Jesus would grow and teach God’s people the true priorities in life and lessons not yet learned. And most of all, Jesus would show people how much God loved them. Jesus walked side by side with God’s people. He healed the sick, raised the dead, and amazed all with his miracles. Jesus was a walking, talking messenger of God. But just as in years past, not all people could believe. They couldn’t give up their pride and power to someone who simply said he was the son of God. God’s children turned away from Jesus. They tortured and killed God’s chosen son. The story could have ended there. Instead, Jesus rose from the dead after three days. All the mistakes and sins committed by God’s people died when Jesus did. And when Jesus rose, so did God’s grace. God showed His people that even though everyone has sinned and even committed the worst sin of all-killing His son; God still loves us and will always be with us. No other time in history is as important. He will never break his promise or partnership. All we, His children have to do is to turn our focus to Him. Listen for His voice; Reach for His hand and watch the world make sense. Today, remember what Jesus did for you and start fresh. And the journey continues.

**Song ~ *Days of Elijah***

**Announcement**

**Closing Song**

*Alleluia Medley*

**The Blessing**

**Dismissal**

*Priest* Alleluia! Christ is risen

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Priest* Go and serve the risen Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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