

Being wholeheartedly invited to rise

Beloved person,

What would you like to experience this Easter? How have you prepared for it? Are you ready and looking forward to a new beginning?

At Passover, Jewish people celebrated the liberation from Egypt where, until then, they had been living in oppression. And after Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, it is written that he rose again at Easter.

*A new day.
After the calamity happened,
they are left behind in sorrow
and so alone.
The woman, who cared for him so much,
frantically searches for him at his grave.
Where did he go?
She only finds a gardener there.
And face to face he reveals
a great secret to her:
"Although he himself is no longer alive,
the light of love has remained.
It will be there,
if we are there."
Amen.¹*

At Easter, liberation, resurrection and spring (in the Netherlands) come together, making these days a special marker of change and a new beginning. You can really long for that. To free yourself from that which holds you captive. You can feel swallowed up and obstructed. Then you no longer feel that there is something of priceless value, something great, something royal, hidden within you, that may blossom in and through you.

What would your life look like if you really felt the invitation of that divine spark? If that were fuel for your faith? To rise from what was and from what hinders you? In search of a new path or a new opportunity in connection with the Source of all life, with your primordial ground, with the mystery from which you received breath and love?

Jesus wanted to teach people something about that Source and its effect on daily life: seek connection with that which is of service and live in such a way that you *honour the value* of all that has been created.

How do you do that? What lesson can you share about that?²

We invite each other this Sunday to renew the bond. Life looks into life through your eyes. It speaks, it laughs, it comforts through us. Life itself has no will, is not unjust, fair or helpful.

Let us, out of our love for life, make a renewed promise to ourselves. That we want to live life to the fullest, that we want to give it a direction in the service of a more beautiful world, in the belief that it really matters what we think, do and do not do. That we are faithful to that calling.

To this end, we speak tender words in a prayer so that that choice can take root more deeply in us. And because we are grateful that we are still here, that we may live in freedom and, together, share a culture that we consider important, we also share our communal responsibility in bringing a special gift of Love.

In this way we will start working with the invitation to rise from what was and we will enter the future together with fresh enthusiasm.

With my warm-hearted greeting, gladly your sister,
Nanda Ziere



¹Hans Reinold, 'De opstanding' (*The Resurrection*, freely translated)

²Perhaps you can bring these lessons together in a beautiful way. Then it becomes visible what we find important together and in sharing the individual wisdom the personal accent also comes into its own.