

# Easter Hope!

"Jesus Christ is risen!"

"He is risen indeed!"

Hope!

What are you hopeful for in the near future?

If you live long enough, hope will disappoint you, it just will.

Is there a larger hope underneath all of the other hopes? Is there an ultimate hope? Is there a hope beyond mere optimism that can stare life, stare tragedy, and stare despair in the face and still have hope?

When things look the darkest from a human perspective is very often when God is going to shine the brightest!

*John 12:20-26*

"Rise up!"

What looked like the worst thing to that little seed ended up being the best thing. It is when the seed is buried it actually produces life.

Hope is what we need and hope is how we are to live

["The three prophetic tasks of the church are to tell the truth in a society that lives in illusion, grieve in a society that practices denial, and express hope in a society that lives in despair."](#)  
[Walter Brueggemann, Reality, Grief and Hope](#)

The cross is the source for this!

Jesus understands when he dies on a cross something terrible will happen but at the same time something wonderful will happen and it changes everything.

*John 12:27-33*

The powers thought they were going to use the cross to stop Jesus, but Jesus decided he would use a cross to show the human race what God himself is like and what love is really like.

But... on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day he arose!

*1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

"If Jesus was not raised from the dead, we simply never would have heard of him." Tens of thousands of people, as a matter of historical fact, were killed by Romans on a cross. It was a convenient way to suppress rebellion. Many of them were would-be messiahs who wanted to lead Israel's revolution. Of all of these, only the name of Jesus of Nazareth is known, and it is known more widely across all of the world than any other name in human history. There is no other way to account for this." NT Wright

We live at the intersection of hope and despair

"The resurrection means the worst thing is not the last thing!" –Fredrick Beuchner

There is a way to life with God, hope from God, but it is counterintuitive.

*Luke 9:23-24*

This is the way to the blessed life, the eternal life, the life to come...that we place our deepest hope!

The way to life is through death

*Galatians 2:20 NLT*

*John 3:16-17*

Where do you need life/hope for today? Where in your life do you need to die to experience new life and receive hope?

Where in this world and/or with others can you give hope?

Picture of seed/lily again