

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

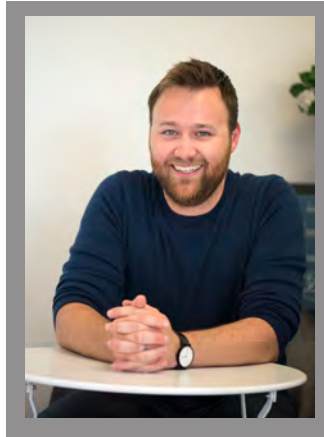
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Be still, quiet, listen. Have hope.

Hope is a powerful concept. It creates a door for us to walk through, which, although we may be experiencing hardship and confusion, we know we'll be safe as there is light beyond our darkness. It still takes courage to walk through it, especially when fear is holding us back, but hope allows us to journey together into a space which seems uncertain. Easter and the following period of time calls us into that hope, reminding us how the early disciples dealt with the immense loss and fear of their time. Their leader, Jesus, had died and they were left feeling isolated and alone, needing to lock themselves away for their safety. They knew if they stepped outside, they could be killed, or perhaps even cause the death of others.

While I won't draw too many parallels between the Easter story and COVID-19, it seems to me that the idea of solitude and isolation does not come naturally to us, especially for extended periods of time, and it may cause us to feel trapped or limited. And still, the Easter story reminds us of a new way of feeling.

In this edition of the Herald, we are calling you to strengthen your sense of spirit by looking within yourself, and to connect with the things you know provide sustenance and experience the present. Kari



provides some tools for resilience – not just for now but for any moment in your life which you may feel overwhelmed. Alice and Kass offer more ideas to help us guide our children to thrive and deepen their faith. Leanne connects with her experience and life in the Community of Christ, sharing how it has helped strengthen her for her journey through life. John explores the miracle of resurrection and how God is indeed with us throughout our suffering. Sue combines the idea that patience is a spiritual practice, and that by waiting for God's Spirit to

interact in our life we are renewed and strengthened. John Wight then asks, 'how will we respond?' to the invitation of Christ through the Easter story. May we use this time to reconnect with the thought that God never leaves us, even in the darkest of times when all seems lost, that we are called to be renewed by our faith. Let us join together to walk through the doors of hope. We are experiencing a wonderful renewed sense of connection through our online worship experiences on Sunday mornings, which for me highlight the concept of continued hope.

*Ben Smith*

Editorial Team