



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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Bishop's 2024 Easter Letter

Dear Beloved Disciples,

“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” (Gospel of Luke 24:30-32)

Hope is central to Easter. It is not just a mere aspiration, desire, or ambition but a hope grounded in the knowledge of what we believe to be true. Specifically, it is a hope founded on the belief that Jesus Christ is Lord.

When the disciples walked along the road to Emmaus, they were lost in despair and confusion. They had witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus, and their hope that he was the Messiah had been shattered. They were demoralized and didn't know what to do next.

However, when the Risen Jesus appeared to them and broke bread with them, their hope was restored. He reshaped their understanding of the story, reminding them of the prophecies of old and how they had foretold that God would do something new. He reminded them of how God had led his people to freedom in the past and how he had come repeatedly to redeem his people. He showed them that God never acts according to what people expect.

As the disciples listened to Jesus, scales fell from their eyes, and they recognized him. They remembered how their hope had begun to grow in their hearts when they met him on the road. The resurrection demonstrated that hope is not blind, ridiculous, or naive. It is a hope that can stand even in hard times, a hope that lifts our eyes to new horizons.

Easter hope is not just a belief but a way of life. It is a hope that changes things and raises our eyes to broader horizons. It is a hope that enables us to see what Jesus is doing and encourages us to join. As we pass on this hope to others, we become part of the business of hope.

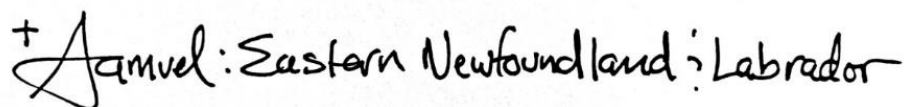
There are many challenges today in the lives of so many people. From refugees fleeing their war-torn homeland to those without a home to call their own in our own Province, there are so many reasons to despair. But as Easter People, we are called to have hope and, as an Easter Church, to become a beacon of hope for the world.

The Easter season is a time of renewed hope and inspiration. As we reflect on the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we are reminded that even in our darkest moments, hope can be restored. The hope that comes from the belief that Jesus Christ is Lord is not just a mere aspiration but a hope that can stand even in hard times and lift our eyes to new horizons. As Easter People, we are called to have hope and become a beacon of hope for the world. By spreading the message of Easter hope, the Church can ultimately transform the world into a more harmonious and hopeful place for all.

May our hearts burn within us as we encounter the Risen Christ in new places and unexpected faces. I offer an Easter Prayer by Steven Shakespeare:

Lord of the gathering feast, you walk with us on the shadowed road: burn our hearts with scripture's open flame; unveil our darkened eyes as bread is torn and shared and from the broken fragments bless a people for yourself; through Jesus Christ, the host of the world. Amen.

In the Risen Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '+ Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland; Labrador'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning of the name.

The Right Rev. Samuel Rose
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador