

## Easter Day in the Lord's Resurrection 2015

St Marylebone 11 am

In the name of the Living God. Amen.

There is a hoary old philosophical conundrum which asks the question: *If a tree falls in a forest and there is no one there to hear it, does it make a sound?*

The question, which seems to have its roots in the early days of the Enlightenment, is, of course a thought experiment that raises questions regarding observation and knowledge of reality.

It is also a question which places man very firmly at the centre of the universe, which is where Enlightenment thinking enthrones him.

Today, a stone is rolled back from the mouth of a borrowed tomb, in the midst of a garden full of other tombs; there is no one there to hear it or see it happen, does it make any difference?

The answer is, of course, a resounding 'Yes!' and the Man who is at the centre of this question is not man, in the general, but Jesus, the man who is God.

As the stone rolls away from the tomb, death itself is defeated, the powerful strangle-hold of sin is vanquished, and it is not just the local environment that is affected by the event which has taken place: the whole universe is for ever changed; the whole created order is recreated anew.

The fact of the Resurrection, unheard, unseen in the silent watches of the night, changes everything; everything, everywhere - and for all time, and mankind - you and me – is not simply an observer, a bystander, but is embraced by God's love as the sons and daughters of his new creation.

The Old Covenant, rooted in Law, is replaced by the New Covenant of Grace.

Death, Darkness, Decay – all the destructive forces of evil are vanquished and they are, once and for ever, robbed, stripped of their former power and seemingly unchallenged victory.

It is as children of this New Covenant that we gather together today on the first day of the Lord's resurrection, the first day of the new creation.

It is as children of this New Covenant that we shall, in a short while, enthusiastically renew the promises we made - or the promises others made on our behalf at our baptism.

It is as children of this New Covenant that in faith and trust and hope that we bring Gabriella Kosisoch ukwu Kamsiyoch ukwu to baptism.

On this Easter Day in the Lord's Resurrection, the first day of the new creation, with the apostles and with the saints of every age

*Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,  
Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded  
Credulity of earlier ages:  
Let us walk through the door.*

*The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,  
Not a stone in a story,  
But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of  
Time will eclipse for each of us  
The wide light of day.*

Christ is Risen. Alleluia!  
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!