

Happy Easter!

How do I begin too explain this one? We covered our communion table with lumpy cushions and loads of cream fabric to create a garden tomb complete with a cardboard stone to roll away and paper flowers as a visual aid to reflection for our Easter celebration. Meanwhile, some weeks before the children had made an Easter garden in a plant tray with soil and grass seed and it had grown rather too well.

Rather than look at just one Easter story we read John's gospel where the risen Jesus meets Mary Magdalene in the garden and then asked the congregation to recount some of the other Easter stories. The children amazed us by telling us every resurrection appearance we could think of and then admitted that they had just watched Miracle Maker the week before at school!

This Eucharist was designed for the children to read in an attempt to pull together all these various visual images and stories. So Voice 1 is reflecting on the Easter gardens we had made; Voice 2 is the story of Mary Magdalene, Voice 3 is the story of our community and Voices 4 & 5 bring in some of the other Easter stories such as the breakfast on the beach and where Peter encounters Jesus and is asked "Do you love me?" I am not sure that it succeeds in pulling all these stories together into a coherent whole - maybe it just reflects some of the confusion and conflicting accounts of Easter morning!

1. Happy Easter!
Christ is Risen!
Alleluia!

2. Happy Easter!
Christ is Risen!
Alleluia!

3. Happy Easter!
Christ is Risen!
Alleluia!

1. But our garden is just grass seeds that have grown a bit too much
a miniature garden made in a plastic plant tray
and a pretend tomb made of a table and fabric
brightened up with flowers we've made from paper!

2. I don't understand where they have taken him!
The dawn is breaking in the garden
the stone is rolled back and the tomb is empty
I don't understand where they have taken him!

3. But regeneration hasn't happened yet!
The terraced houses and all boarded up
and the bulldozers have moved in
But regeneration hasn't happened yet!

1. This is the day for an Easter egg hunt!
This is the day to eat hot cross buns and simnel cakes!
This is the day to celebrate!

2. This is the day for an Easter egg hunt!
This is the day to eat hot cross buns and simnel cakes!
This is the day to celebrate!

3. This is the day for an Easter egg hunt!
This is the day to eat hot cross buns and simnel cakes!
This is the day to celebrate!
1. How can anything good spring from something so bad?
We plant our seeds and decorate our garden and hope
hope that one day new life will grow
but how can anything good spring from something so bad?
2. The tomb is empty and the gardener is calling my name!
I'm frightened and confused and hardly dare believe what I see
but hope is beginning to stir
The tomb is empty and the gardener is calling my name!
3. Between the boarded up houses Easter eggs are opened!
And the diggers and trucks stand silent for a day
bulbs are pushing through the dirt and grime
and between the boarded up houses Easter eggs are opened!
4. Just after daybreak Jesus stood on the beach
but his disciples did not know it was him
smoke was rising from a charcoal fire
and the smell of fish and bread wafted on the breeze.
5. Come and warm yourselves
Come and have breakfast
This is my body broken for you *[break bread]*
This is my blood poured out for you *[lift cup]*

[share bread and wine]

4. Could it be? Could it possibly be?
Is it possible that the rumours are true?
Who else could it be breaking bread and pouring wine?
Could it be? Could it possibly be?
5. Simon Peter, do you love me?
Simon Peter, do you love me?
Simon Peter, do you love me?
Then feed my sheep!
4. It is him, it is him! He's alive, he's risen!
1. He's risen in the gardener who plants the seeds and hopes!
2. He's risen in his followers who share bread and wine and stories!
3. He's risen in the terraces where people dream of a better tomorrow!
1. Happy Easter!
Christ is Risen!
Alleluia!
2. Happy Easter!
Christ is Risen!

Alleluia!

3. Happy Easter!
Christ is Risen!
Alleluia!

All: Let us celebrate!

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