



How the Virus Stole Easter

Serving Leaders in Ministry



Awakening America Alliance

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Pastors: In an unprecedented time in their journey, Joshua's instructions for the Israelites were to keep their eyes on the ark of the covenant as the priests carried this symbol of the Lord's presence and led them through uncharted territory. They were to do this so they would, "... *know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before*" (Joshua 3:4).

As leaders of God's people today, you may feel as though:

- Never in our days, have we been through anything like this before.
- Never in our days, have we felt so inadequate in knowing what to do, while being surrounded by rising floods of death and destruction across much of our land.
- Never in our days, have we experienced the grieving process of pervasive loss of our jobs, financial security, typical worship services, and daily routines—not to mention closeness with precious family and friends.
- Never in our days, have we faced crossing into a battle throughout our land, which seems to have been taken over by an "invisible" giant!

Yet, with our eyes upon Jesus, we WILL see our deliverance as certainty as Joshua and the children of Israel saw theirs.

During this coronavirus pandemic, we also want to keep our "eyes" on caring for our pastors, so we can serve those "worthy of double honor."

The following poem by Kristi Bothur and video may be helpful as you courageously preach into this present situation.



How the Virus Stole Easter

'Twas late in '19 when the virus began,
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed.
"There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

*"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."*

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," they proclaimed.
"Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling.
"They're finding out now that no Easter is coming."

*"They're just waking up! I know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo."*

"That noise," said the world, *"would be something to hear."
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.*

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!

It couldn't be so!
But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Each saint in each nation, the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
"Just how can it be?"

*"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."*

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought, *"doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."*

And what happened then?
Well...the story's not done.
What will YOU do?

Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?
Will you share of the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty—but so is the tomb,
And Jesus is Victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the Church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that—Let it start a revival.

