

Uncertainty, fears, anxiety,
panic, anger, collapsing markets,
pressures, sicknesses, failing businesses,
job insecurities, deep recession,
family obligations, debt payments,
closures, depleted savings,
isolation, loneliness, restrictions,
worry about the future,
eerie silence on the streets.

Love & Victory IN THE CROSS

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So much has been said and written about the scale and suddenness of this global pandemic which has and will cause much pain, death, sickness, sadness, suffering and loss in ways unimaginable from just a few weeks ago.

As I sought the Lord's presence amidst the unending tide of negative news, He reminded me of the power of His Resurrection which brought:

1. **JOY** when there was sadness – for the women who went to the tomb and to whom it was revealed that Jesus had risen (“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” Matthew 28:8)
2. **PEACE** when there was fear – for the disciples who were cowering in fear (“Peace be with you” John 20:19)
3. **VICTORY** when there was defeat – for all of us as Christ has conquered all sickness, sin and death forever (“I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” Revelation 1:18)

I was also reminded of His great love for us, when our Lord Jesus Christ gave Himself up willingly to die. It was revealed that the middle cross of Calvary's three crosses was not physically measured for our Lord Jesus. The specifications and measurements were for the criminal Barabbas. Yet Jesus was hung up on that cross instead so that He could take upon Himself the sins of our world in the divine exchange. And we ask the question – Since the Lord Jesus took our place, are we not Barabbas? A sinner as the criminal Barabbas was?

Yet He willingly died for Barabbas and for each of us. That is the unfathomable, deep and precious love of Christ. (“but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8).

It is trusting in the power of the Resurrection and believing in His great love for us that will see us through this difficult time.



Finally, instead of the negative words which dominate each of our WhatsApps, inboxes and screens, the Lord was gracious to provide strength and courage through the drawings of Charlie Mackesy, (the artist who sculpted the famous "Prodigal Son" sculpture) in his book "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse". These drawings spoke to me more than any words could at this time. I hope they are meaningful to you too.

"Sometimes," said the horse.

"Sometimes what?" asked the boy.

"Sometimes just getting up and carrying on is brave and magnificent."



"When the dark clouds come, keep going."



Dora Cheok



PRAYER – Lord God our Heavenly Father, thank you so much for giving to us your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your great love for us that in Your mercy you grant us joy instead of sadness, peace instead of fear and victory in the place of defeat. We humbly ask your forgiveness for our sins. Please hear us and heal our land. **AMEN.**