

Dear Friends,



Live in the moment. This was one of the ten recommendations I listed last month and I hope that what I am going to share with you now may serve to help us do more of that. Live in and be thankful for each new day.

Holidays are always good times for contemplation and taking stock, and for Margaret and me it was a privilege and pleasure to be able to worship in Malta on Mothering Sunday at St Andrew's church in Valetta which is described as a Union of Church of Scotland and the Methodist Church. One hymn in particular spoke to us both in the service and the last two verses helped us realize the true significance of Easter and I share them with you as my Easter message this year. The hymn is called "Mary, joyful mother", written by Gillian Collins, but as you will read in just a moment and as Lent has reminded us as we now culminate with Easter, not everything in the garden was rosy nor was every step Jesus took an easy one, for him or for his mother. And yet, as we come to the pinnacle of the Christian year and look back as well as looking forward, we realize that Mary's feelings are our feelings too at times when life is difficult and hurtful, hopeless even?

The Easter hope is precisely that there is always Hope, for all of us, and assurance too. So, please can I ask you to take a moment to read the two verses with which I finish this Thought and ponder them as we approach Easter Day. God bless you and happy Easter!

Mary, watching sadly by the cruel cross,  
Who can know your thoughts now, grieving in your loss?  
Was it all for this, then? All your years of care?  
He cries, "It is finished!" You weep with despair.

Mary, new disciple, in the upper room,  
Waiting, watching, praying – Spirit's coming soon.  
Mother of the Christ-child, suffering, faithful, true,  
We have now a Saviour. God be praised for you!

**Rev Preben Andersen**