

## **2025 Easter Message**

### **Rev Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia**

It began in the shadows. A story of death - but also life.

The women came at dawn on Easter Sunday. Hearts heavy. Hope buried. They had seen the cross, had stood in the silence of loss. Now, they stood before the tomb. Cold, silent, unsealed. The place where dreams end... or so they thought.

But when they arrived, the stone was rolled away. Empty. And then: words that shattered the silence forever:

*"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!"*

The tomb – once a symbol of defeat – became the birthplace of courage. They came grieving and afraid and were called from their sorrow. They rose up. They ran and they proclaimed. Fear gave way to faith. Despair gave way to purpose.

And now, the question comes to us: What tombs are we living in?

The tomb of fear? Of division? Of hopelessness?

The resurrection of Jesus is more than a promise. It is now. It is ours. It calls us to rise from death to life. From despair to hope. From the tomb to new beginnings, or new life!

Like the women who were the first to proclaim that Jesus had risen, we cannot stay silent. We cannot go back to life as it was while our communities long for renewal and our world aches for peace.

This is our moment. We cannot wait. We must rise now and speak words of healing into a world torn apart. Act with courage where the vulnerable are forgotten. Love without limits. Serve without fear. Hope without hesitation.

From the silence of the tomb rises the song of hope. Do not linger in the shadows of fear and despair. Step out from the tomb. Stop looking for the living among the dead, for Christ is risen.

Let's live boldly as people of new life, strong in courage and relentless in love.

May the joy of the risen Christ bring you peace and renew your spirits.

Wishing you and your communities a blessed Easter!