

President's Easter Message 2026

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If life feels loud right now...
If the world feels more anxious than peaceful...
The first Easter happened behind locked doors.

Not in a cathedral.
Not in celebration.
But in fear.

And into that fear, the risen Jesus stood among his disciples and said:

“Peace be with you.”

He says it twice — because sometimes once isn't enough.

As President of the Uniting Church in Australia, I want to speak into this moment we are living through — because the world does not need more noise. It needs peace.

Many of us are carrying more than we show.

We feel it when making ends meet feels harder than it used to.
In private grief.
In young people wrestling with anxiety.
In conversations that divide more than they heal.

Across the world, families live behind locked doors of their own.
Across the Pacific, rising seas remind us how fragile home can feel.
Here in Australia, the wounds of this land are still carried by First Peoples.

Easter does not look away from any of this.

When Jesus appeared, he showed his hands and his side.

He did not hide his wounds.

Resurrection is not denial.
It is love moving through scars.

He stood among his disciples — not performing, not demanding — simply present.

And he breathed on them and said:

“Receive the Holy Spirit.”

This is how his peace comes alive in them.

Not by pretending everything is fine,
but in the middle of real life.

It brings them back to God — and back to one another.

As Christians, this matters for us.

Because if Christ is risen — and he is —
then fear does not have the final word.

The Church does not live by anxiety.
We live by resurrection.

Not anxious about survival, but faithful in witness.

We are here to represent Jesus Christ.

And that peace does not stay behind locked doors.

It moves outward.
It sends us.

So, this Easter —

Receive his peace.

Stand firm in resurrection hope.

And live as people of resurrection —
because death and fear do not have the final word.

Because the tomb is empty.

Love has not ended.

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Happy Easter.

Peace be with you.