**Holy Week Meditation**

**Everything Topsy-Turvy**

We all know how in recent weeks life has become perplexing, difficult and challenging – indeed topsy- turvy! I was born near the beginning of the 2nd World War – but only have clear memories of the consequences – the many bomb sites in East London where I lived, the rationing of food and clothes, the national debt of eye-watering size, families bereaved and homeless. In the war-time people gathered together in bomb shelters and underground subways. Now it’s different – caring for others means we must isolate (unless in essential services). Different and difficult!

I’ve been reading about daily life when Jesus was growing up and then ministering in Galilee and Jerusalem. It was a ravaged and occupied country with the Roman “peace” maintained by ruthless oppression and taxation. It was a time of social unrest with almost continuous attempts at rebellion put down by merciless military power, poor local government and regular crucifixion. Most people were really poor.

It was in this context that Jesus taught about God’s covenant plan of God’s kingdom of forgiveness and new life which leads to hope in God and love for neighbours. People’s lives were changed. But Holy Week was terrible – betrayal, desertion, unjust trial and hideous execution. Then on the 3rd day after all this came the Easter resurrection! New life indeed! Jesus is alive – death defeated.

What a story! What a life! What a promise for us all!

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