**Easter / Resurrection Quotes with a Few Queries**

**Matthew 28:1-8** New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
**The Resurrection of Jesus
28** After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2** And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. **4** For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. **5** But the angel said to the women, “**Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.**” **8** So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.

Friends Journal article, April 2015: “There is no need to know what happens at the tomb. There is no need to know whether there was a resurrection or not. There is no need to see the risen man, no need to place your hand in the wound in his side, no need to meet him on the road. The true resurrection . . . happens in a different way for those who hear his words and follow them.” [https://www.friendsjournal.org/holy-saturday-meditation/?\_gl=1\*1k1lk9l\*\_ga\*NzkzNTEyMDc1LjE2ODA2MTcyMjg.\*\_ga\_55MQY2EKW4\*MTY4MDYxNzIyNy4xLjEuMTY4MDYxNzI4OC42MC4wLjA](https://www.friendsjournal.org/holy-saturday-meditation/?_gl=1*1k1lk9l*_ga*NzkzNTEyMDc1LjE2ODA2MTcyMjg.*_ga_55MQY2EKW4*MTY4MDYxNzIyNy4xLjEuMTY4MDYxNzI4OC42MC4wLjA)

“[W]e are regenerated, not so much by the death of Christ as by his life in our hearts.” Brinton

Friends Journal article about early Quakers and Easter, March 2020: “Quakers insisted that the spirit of Christ that was experienced by Jesus’s disciples after the resurrection, by Paul on the road to Damascus, and in gatherings of the early Church, is universally available to everyone in all ages, locations, and cultures. . . . [T]he active presence of God, of the universal Christ, received into our lives gives us the self-understanding, commitment, and divine support—the Inward Light—to improve the ethical content of our lives. . . . *As a consequence of the effect of the Light, they were changed people. . . . Let us then think of the risen Christ as a transforming experience of the Divine.*”[www.friendsjournal.org/what-did-easter-mean-to-early-quakers/](https://www.friendsjournal.org/what-did-easter-mean-to-early-quakers/)

*Query: How have you experienced becoming a changed person by the Light?*

“[W]e should remember the lessons and meaning of Easter all through the year.

 “Stories are conveyors of meaning, but they are also prompts for thought. In this story, as in all others, we must seek to see beyond the meanings that are widely accepted. By thinking on them with our hearts open to the Spirit, we may find the Light illuminating in us a new insight – not necessarily novel or original, but new for us.

 “*At Easter, or at any other time of year you choose to do so, you might dwell on this story, bring both reason and Light to bear on it, and see what insights you might find.*” <https://quakeropenings.blogspot.com/2018/03/a-quaker-easter-part-2-meaning.html>

*Query: Does the Easter story, considered with reason and Light, offer you any insights?*

“So, as Quakers, what might we make of the story of Holy Week and Easter? How might we read it and how might it speak to us? The language and imagery can feel challenging and problematic, and the miraculous elements can be equally tricky. Is it possible for us to find a sense of meaning and reality in it all?
 “Moments of encounter: The story of Holy Week and Easter, seen as a whole, is vivid and unsettling. It contains within it themes of friendship, betrayal and political tension. There is state-sponsored murder, and the violent pendulum swing of public opinion from adoration to condemnation. There are moments of loneliness, desolation, unspeakable cruelty and profound courage. There is falling and failing, of many kinds. And there is tenacious and unflinching love.

 “And Easter itself is not quite the sunlit miracle story we might remember. There is no gospel telling of anything that might be described as 'the resurrection', but rather a jagged and untidy collection of stories and moments of encounter.
 “These encounters are profound, elusive and tantalizingly open-ended. A surprising number of them end in either fear or confusion, or both. They were not written to convince anyone of the reality of resuscitated corpses but rather of the unconquerable aliveness of the love encountered in and through Jesus.
 “Extraordinary ordinary lives: [F]or me, what is undeniable about these stories is their deep humanity. I hear them echoed in the darkness and struggle and injustice that we see and experience in our daily lives and in the world around us. I see them lived out in costly, generous and often unnoticed acts of love. These stories live for me where I encounter new beginnings after terrible loss, in the resilient hopefulness of extraordinary ordinary lives.” [www.quaker.org.uk/blog/quakers-and-easter](https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/quakers-and-easter)

“‘Christ saith this, and the apostles say this;’ but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of the Light, and hast thou walked in the Light, and what thou speakest, is it inwardly from God?” This opened me so, that it cut me to the heart; and then I saw clearly we were all wrong. So I sat down in my pew again, and cried bitterly: and I cried in my spirit to the Lord, “We are all thieves; we are all thieves; we have taken the scriptures in words, and know nothing of them in ourselves.”
 “So what’s important to Quakers is to “know the scriptures in ourselves”. We know what scriptures describe as our own experience.
 *Query: “Think back to an incident in your life that started with seemingly insurmountable difficulty or pain, but eventually turned out OK or even life-giving in a way you couldn’t have imagined at the outset. How is that experience similar to or different from what you think of as “resurrection”?”*  <https://quakersusanne.wordpress.com/2012/04/08/experience-the-resurrection/>

“Our only truly essential human task here, Jesus teaches, is to grow beyond [our] survival instincts...into the joy and generosity of full human personhood.”

<https://www.farmingtonfriendsquakermeeting.com/sunday-messages-archive/love-is-all-there-is>

“This Christ, whatever it is, is contiguous with Jesus. If you look at Jesus you have the principle – and vice versa. It’s really not as complicated as we make it. All that we’re asked to do is to revel in the wonder. Open to the majesty. In the Kabbalah wonder is the highest state – residing, as it does, immediately above faith just as faith lies above reason. All we have to do is to say “Yes”. It’s really as simple as child’s play.” <https://www.contemplative.org/reflecting-advent-brian-mitchell/>

“[R]esurrection is proof that the Light of God is powerful enough to overcome any brokenness. It doesn’t mean that things go back to the way they were—Jesus didn’t go back to being an itinerant preacher, but things can be made ok again.” Reddit

Spong says of the early Christian community that wrote the Gospels, “the meaning of Jesus is what drove them to write the narratives in the first place.” Spong