**Tuesday 14th April**

Psalm 103: 14-18

The life of mortals is like grass,
    they flourish like a flower of the field;
**16**the wind blows over it and it is gone,
    and its place remembers it no more.
**17**But from everlasting to everlasting
    the Lord’s love is with those who fear him,
    and his righteousness with their children’s children –
**18**with those who keep his covenant
    and remember to obey his precepts.

We were watching a medical drama on TV the other day. In it one of the doctors got sick and was dying. With just a short time left to live, he talked to his colleague about how he had grown up with true faith but had forsaken that faith as a young man. But he found that in his final hours, all that he had been taught, all that he knew of God was starting to make sense again. Christopher remarked to me that one of the fascinating things about this particular moment in our history, is that we are having a collective realisation of our mortality, and the potential for a collective return to a faith that perhaps we once knew, but have forsaken. What an unusual time! What a significant opportunity!

Psalm 103 is one of my favourite Psalms (ok, I know I say that about a lot of them!) – read the whole thing if you have a chance today. In this Psalm, our mortality is contrasted with something permanent – the love of the Lord. Our existence in this world is momentary, but the Lord’s love is from everlasting to everlasting! What a great reassurance! We are celebrating Easter, and at the heart of the message of Easter is the new reality that death doesn’t get to have the last say for those that have put their trust in the love of God demonstrated through the cross and resurrection of Jesus! Hallelujah!

*Lord Jesus, we praise you that in you there is hope for eternity! We praise you that your love has conquered death! We praise you that your love is from everlasting to everlasting! We praise you that when we give our lives to Jesus, they are in your hands for ever! Lord, we long for many to know your saving grace and to experience that hope for themselves. Father, although the enemy meant this virus for evil, we pray that you would redeem this situation, that it would become a way in which we return to you and would result in the saving of many lives! Amen*

