



April 2, 2021

The Episcopal Diocese of Utah

The Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi

I sincerely hoped and prayed that Easter 2020 would be the first and last Easter in the pandemic. Here we are in 2021 with over 550,000 deaths in the United States from the virus and over 2,800,000 deaths worldwide.

When I sat down to write this the words that kept coming to me were from Hark! The Herald Angels Sing by Charles Wesley:

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Yes, a Christmas Hymn, that is what kept coming to mind. Christmas and Easter intertwined in my soul. I grieve the loss of so many people. And I give thanks for the heaven born Prince of Peace who was born to raise us all and who has, with his wings, caught those who have perished and will catch us when we breathe our last.

For I know that our Redeemer lives, and because of his resurrection, we will see God with our own eyes and not as a stranger.

A blessed Easter to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Scott B. Hayashi".

+Scott B. Hayashi
Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Utah