

Words of Light and Hope - Easter Day

Helena Crockford LLM

How do we grasp the significance of Easter Day, seeing beyond the Easter Eggs and Bunnies? "We do not keep Easter, we do not observe Easter; rather, we live inside it. Christ's birth was an event, so was the crucifixion. Easter is not an event. Easter is a conviction, an attitude. Easter is not history; Easter is the future." David Hoyle, A Year of Grace.

Two poems by the poet-priest Malcolm Guite convey both the loss and despair, and the hope and resurrection which provide us with the everlasting answer:

Jesus' body is taken down from the cross

His spirit and his life he breathes in all, Now
on this cross his body breathes no more.
Here at the centre everything is still,
Spent, and emptied, opened to the core.
A quiet taking down, a prising loose,
A cross-beam lowered like a weighing scale,
Unmaking of each thing that had its use,
A long withdrawing of each bloodied nail.
This is ground zero, emptiness and space,
With nothing left to say or think or do,
But look unflinching on the sacred face.
That cannot move or change or look at you.
Yet in that prising loose and letting be.
He has unfastened you and set you free.

Easter Dawn

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light
crept Up from the east.
A sound behind her stirs, A scatter of bright
birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question
'Why, Why are you weeping?',
or sees the play of light That brightens as she
chokes out her reply,
'They took my love away, my day is night.'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love
say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

From: Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year, Canterbury Press (2012)

Happy Easter, Allelujah!



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES



Pew Notes

A Message From Revd Helen & Keith:

Happy Easter to everyone faith and love

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

**3rd May: 2:30pm Jim Causley's, Afternoon Tea Concert,
St Margaret', Swannington**

**For more information on any events please see our website or
Facebook page or contact Joy to be on our weekly newsletter.**

Services for next week: Sunday 27th April 2025

9am Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Thurning
10am Café Church (Service at 10:30am), St Michael's, Reepham
10:30am Favourite Hymns, St Margaret's, Swannington

Email parishofficerwv@gmail.com to submit articles or join the mailing list.

FACEBOOK: Reepham & Wensum Valley Events

WEBSITE: www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk

To contact the administrator Joy, please either email or call 07770672329.

Pew Notes are available to download from the RWV website and the E-newsletter

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer. Details in the church porch or on the RWV website.

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Psalm 118:14-24

14 The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.
 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:
 16 "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! the right hand of the LORD is exalted! the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"
 17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.
 18 The LORD has punished me sorely, but he did not hand me over to death.
 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.
 20 "This is the gate of the LORD; he who is righteous may enter."
 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.
 22 The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
 23 This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
 24 On this day the LORD has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Collect

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Luke 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.