

EASTER SUNDAY 2005

Begin by reading from The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe.....p173

483 IN THE TOMB SO COLD THEY LAY HIM

Hymn 164 Thine be the glory. Verses 1-2

Prayer

Bible Reading John 20:1-18

The originator of a new religion came to the great French diplomat-statesman Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord and complained that he could not make any converts. What would you suggest I do? He asked. I should recommend, said Talleyrand, that you get yourself crucified and then die, but be sure to rise again the third day.

Only the Son of God could do that.....Today we celebrate that He truly did.

William Sangster, the great Methodist leader who helped guide Londoners through the horrors of the Second World War bombings fell ill to a disease that progressively paralyzed his body, and eventually his vocal cords. On the Easter just before he died he managed to scribble this short note to his daughter:

How terrible to wake up on Easter and have no voice to shout, HE IS RISEN ! Far worse to have a voice and not want to shout.

The next song gives us an opportunity to shout

50 O WHAT A MORNING

Bible Reading John 20: 19-23

Offering

Children Exit with prayer

Bible Reading John 20: 24-31

COMMUNION

ROSS AND KIRSTEN SING ABOVE ALL POWERS

6 I SERVE A RISEN SAVIOUR HE'S IN THE WORLD TODAY

Prayer

JANET TO SING IN CHRIST ALONE.....all join in second time.

1 Corinthians 15: 1-8

MESSAGE

At the recent Over 55's

Recounted the story of the SS teacher who prior to Easter Sunday gave.....plastic egg and asked the children to bring something in it that symbolised the meaning of the resurrection. Tiny flower.....crayoned picture of Christ.....small nail.....round pebble.....Teacher was a little dumbfounded when opened egg of 7yr old Brian ...a mentally-challenged boy, and found nothing there.

But not to worry, Brian himself spoke up and announce.: It's full of emptiness.....just like the tomb of Jesus.

That's the glorious truth.....celebrate anew.....

It's the foundation of all we believe.....and its only thro resurrection of....
That we have the Assurance of Eternal life

Ever since this world was cursed because of sin

Death has been the ultimate terror for most people in the normal way of things

IT has been used as the final and most powerful threat

By the thief..... the law..... the manipulator...the Dictator

It would have to be said.....that the majority.....have a fear of death

Story told about three men who were talking to a fourth and the subject of death came up.

He asked each of them , When you are in your coffin and friends and family are mourning you, what would you like to hear them say about you?

The first man said. I would like to hear them say that I was a great doctor of my time and a great family man.

The second says, I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher who made a huge difference to the children of tomorrow.

The last replies, I would like to hear them say, Look, he's moving.

The most amazing news of Easter.....is that Christ has made death a doorway
Into a life for which we were created

We no longer have to fear it.....for our days..eternity.... in God's hands

**And when the time is right.....He will take us to Himself
To A life without sin.....sorrow.....heartbreak.....and parting**

**Like the story of the kite...put in the Particpaper
We will know freedom as we have never known it before**

All this hinges ...on the actuality of Christ's resurrection

Paul writes in 1 Cor 15:14 and says.....14-19.....

But then he continues.....But Christ Has indeed been raised

This is the truth that has survived the test of time for over 2,000years

In that passage from 1 Cor 15 that we read

Paul states that the truth of the resurrection of Christ is confirmed
BY THE SCRIPTURESv4.....

**The Old Testament prophets foretold the resurrection of the Messiah
Psalm 16 speaks of it as does Isaiah 53**

Jesus Himself said as recorded in Matt 20:18

*We are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of man will be betrayed to the chief priests
and the teachers of the law. They will condemn Him to death and will turn Him over to
the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day He will be raised
to life.*

It has also been CONFIRMED BY EYE WITNESSES

Paul lists all those who saw the risen Lord
Including 500most of whom were still alive:::People could go to them for proof.

BUT ESPECIALLY SAYS PAUL>>>>>It's confirmed by my own conversion

Paul was so much against the teaching of the resurrection.....that he persecuted

Until the Risen Lord Jesus appeared to him

The proof of that appearance is in what Paul became

Nothing less than Jesus....alive from the dead.....

could have accounted for such a change

John Stott writes

Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest evidence of all for the resurrection. It was the resurrection which transformed Peter's fear into courage and James' doubt into faith. It was the resurrection which changed the Sabbath into Sunday and the Jewish remnant into the Christian Church. It was the resurrection that changed Saul the Pharisee into Paul the Apostle and turned his persecuting into preaching.

This Easter Sunday we proclaim the truth and the power of the resurrection...

But in the end its up to each of us whether we accept it for ourselves or not

If we choose to believe it.....then we must come to Jesus....seek His forgiveness

And give our lives to living for Him ...not simply going our own way

That's an ongoing commitment.....each believer...called to remake evry day

If we choose to believe it.....but then live a life that basically ignores Jesus

Then in the end.....we will face death without a Saviour

How much better to acknowledge that Jesus is truly alive....

And to seek His living presence...To ask Him to reveal Himself to you

And to use this life.....that God has given to us

To Make Way for Him....who has promised to return

