

Holy Trinity Church Newsletter

Easter 2019

‘Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!’

Of all the Resurrection accounts in the Gospels my favourite is that of the encounter between Mary Magdalene and the Risen Lord. (John 20:10-18) You may recall that it tells of how Mary, having discovered Jesus’ empty tomb, had brought Simon Peter and John to see for themselves. Mary is then left by herself weeping outside the empty tomb. It is then, in the midst of her grief and despair that she encounters the Risen Christ. ‘Supposing him to be the gardener’ she doesn’t recognise Jesus at first, but then she hears her name, ‘Mary’. Then she knows.

It is this experience of hearing our names spoken by the Risen Lord that I find so attractive and compelling when I try to comprehend the Mystery of the Resurrection. While it is certainly unlikely that most of us will experience what Mary and the early disciples experienced, it is also true that the Risen Lord still calls us all by our names.

In many ways Mary Magdalene represents and stands for all of us. How often are we, like her, found standing weeping over our shattered hopes and dreams. We gaze tearfully at the tombs of our past failures and hurts, unfulfilled hopes and ambitions, longing that things could have turned out differently. At times we are so blinded by our tears that we fail to see who is standing with us. Yet in the midst of our hopelessness and regret the Lord calls our names. He calls us to turn away from the emptiness of the past and walk into the newness of Resurrection life.

For Resurrection, and we must be clear about this, is not a reward to be gained in Heaven. It is a present reality for us all in this life. Certainly, its fulfilment lies ahead, but we are called to experience it now. How is this so?

We begin quite simply by opening our eyes, our ears, our hearts to what is continually happening all around us, all of the time. Resurrection is the blue-print for all of creation. It is embedded in all of life: the cycle of death and new life that we see in nature, the death and birth of stars and galaxies throughout the universe, the planted seed that has to die that something new can be born. Resurrection is the only template for all growth in the spiritual life: it is only as we let go, die to our false selves, our ego driven natures, that the new life of the Spirit can grow in us.

The Risen Lord I believe is continually calling our names. Calling us from all that would hold us back and hold us down. I believe that every sign of new life, every glimpse of hope, every suggestion of love is the Risen Lord calling us by name. The bursting forth of new life that is all around us at this time of year is the Lord gently calling us by name. Whenever a ray of light and hope bursts into that which seemed hopeless and dark, Christ calls our name. Whenever an act of compassion and love touches our broken lives, Christ is calling our names. Whenever mercy and justice stands up against cruelty and injustice, Christ is calling our name. In the quietness of prayer, in the still hours of early morning, in the waters of baptism, in the Bread and the Wine, Christ calls us by name.

The Risen Lord calls you by name to come and follow Him into the newness of life that is His gift to us. May you hear your name being called this Easter and every day. May we, like Mary, hear and recognise the voice of Our Lord.

Easter blessings and joy to you all.
Reverend Kenneth.

Holy week Services

Sunday 14th April

10.30am Palm Sunday Eucharist

Wednesday 17th April:

7pm Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday 18th April

10.30am No service at Holy Trinity (11am Chrism Mass at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee)

7pm Holy Communion & Washing of Hands

Good Friday 19th April

12-1pm: Reflections on the Cross

Easter Eve Saturday 20th April

8.15pm Service at St Rule's Church, Church Street, Monifieth

Easter Day Sunday 21st April

10.30am Sung Eucharist at Holy Trinity.



Ministry Team

Priest-in-Charge

Rev'd Kenneth Gibson

tel 01382 535920 or 07825554419

Lay Reader

Linda Walls tel 01382 533107

Bill McFawns tel 01382 796749

Services

Sunday: Sung Eucharist 10.30am

Thursday: Holy Communion 10.30am

(coffee/tea after both services)