

Wednesday Word

In reflection on the message for Sunday 9th April 2023.

Easter Sunday

The day for some of us started at 9.00 am with a **breakfast Communion Service.**

Readings:

Mark 16, v1-8. **Jesus Has Risen. Mary Magdalene and Salome went to the tomb.**

John 21, v9-14. **Jesus said, “Bring fish...Come and have breakfast.”**

Mark 14, v22-25. **The Communion Narrative.**

10.45 Service:

Call to Worship: **Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed. Hallelujah!**

Extracts from Acts 10, v34-43. **Christ, the Lord of All.**

v34f: **Then Peter began to speak,**

**“I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism,
but accepts from ever nation the one who fears him and does what is right.**

v35f: **You know the message God sent to the people of Israel,
announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.**

...and how he went around doing good and healing...because God was with him.”

Peter is testifying as a witness to Jesus death on the cross and his resurrection. Peter notes that as a consequence (v43) all believers **“receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”** This applies to all, whether Jews or Gentiles. Christ is the Lord of All, who commanded us to preach to all peoples (v42).

Reflection: ‘All peoples’ means not just ‘people like us’ (‘plu’), but we must introduce Jesus to people from outside our comfort zones. And, if they come to church only once, repeat the invitation many times.

Extracts from 1 Corinthians 15, v1-11. **The Resurrection of Christ.**

Paul writes to people who are ‘plu’,

v1f: **Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel**

I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.

Paul outlines the Easter message above in the Acts Reading, going further evidence of appearances of the resurrected Jesus including to Paul, at the time of his conversion.

Reflection: So, just as the Gospel was spread through the Holy Land by Paul and the disciples, we are the channels for God’s word to be passed onwards in modern times.

Extracts from John 20, v1-18. **The Empty Tomb.**

v1: **Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.**

This is the passage from John’s Gospel which reports Peter witnessing Christ’s resurrection, that was referenced in the Acts Reading above.

Reflection: This is a Reading which illustrates that men and women are equally important in Gospel stories. The Easter story is so powerful that it is as intriguing now as it has been throughout the centuries since it happened. It stresses the lasting power of Jesus’ message of peace, love and joy, which has spread worldwide.