

Easter Sunday Sermon 4 April 2021

Christ the Lord is Risen- Luke 24:1-12

The Lord is Risen- Alleluia!

To better talk about resurrection, we need to acknowledge the fact that death has happened previously. In this case, The one who was crucified , who died is now risen..... as echoed by the gospel writer: *“He is not here; he has risen!”* (Luke 24:6) JESUS IS ALIVE!

“Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed.” —**John Stott**

The much-loved Easter hymn Christ the Lord is Risen Today by Charles Wesley first appeared in the Wesley brothers' Hymns and Sacred Poems, 1739, and was dubbed Hymn for Easter Day. In Wesley's second stanza we are told of Christ's saving actions on our behalf:

Lives again our glorious King, Where, O death, is now your sting? Jesus died, our souls to save, Where your victory, O grave? This expresses some significant victory.

Easter is the undoing of death, in other words death's annihilation. The Son of God who walked among us as a Son of Man was dead, but now He is alive again! In and through the celebration of Easter, Christians celebrate the wonder of God among us.

On the third day, whatever that might precisely mean in terms of clock-time, God did a new thing, never seen in the history of this troubled world. God overturned death, permanently, in the case of Jesus. God's Son killed by evil men was raised to immortality. The events of the Resurrection bring **hope** in the knowledge that Christ is alive, and he wants us to be alive too. Risen, he shows the light on his face, he is with us and never abandons. However far we may wander, he is always there to restore our strength and our hope, calling on us to return to him and to start afresh.

Tired of life- be assured Christ can do something new, he can offer you a fresh start. “Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns.” —Clement of Alexandria. The Resurrection of Christ is the principle of new life for all of us. May this time of renewed hope enable humanity to respond to social injustices, homelessness, humanitarian crisis, and calls for freedom and peace. May we be hope for victims of on-going conflict - Myanmar, Ethiopia....

May the Lord of hope not find us cold and indifferent. May he make us builders of bridges, not walls. May the Risen Lord, who flung open the doors of the tomb, open our hearts to the needs of the disadvantaged, the poor and vulnerable, the unemployed, the outcasts, and all those who knock on the door in search for bread, refuge, and acknowledgement of their human dignity. **Christ is alive!** He is hope - May we let ourselves be renewed by him!
Amen.