

Reading Matthew 28 : 1 – 10

My Friends, in this moment in history, this moment in time, many of faith and without, are asking questions, Where is God ? Why are we here ? Is this, all there is, to existence ? What, is the meaning, of life? (I can almost hear the Hitchikers' Guide to the Galaxy fans muttering '42'). And AND, What happens, when we die ?

As I share, these words with you today, Easter Sunday, does not, necessarily answer, all the big questions, and the Easter story, raises one or two, of its own... But it does, add a huge portion, of hope, to the equation. And for me, and I hope for you, that's what, this day, is all about: because He lives, Jesus ;lives, I, **I, can face tomorrow.**

For on Easter Sunday, or Resurrection Day, we celebrate, the remarkable crescendo, of the gospel stories - where the crucified Jesus, becomes, the Risen Jesus. Where death, loses its sting. Where life, love and hope, win against death, hate and despair.

Yes, this crucial moment, in the Christian story, and in the story, of humanity, doesn't, immediately, bring about, the end, of all that is evil, unjust, or broken, in our world. In fact, there appears, to have been, some confusion, about this in the immediate aftermath, of Jesus' resurrection, and ascension.

For many, in the early church, thought that Jesus' resurrection, set into motion, the end of the world, and that God, would return, in judgement, and create, a 'new heaven, and a new earth', within a few decades, if not years.

Well, 2000 years on, from the resurrection, we have a slightly different perspective. For Easter, doesn't solve, the world's problems. For we only, have to switch on, the news, or open our newspapers, to discover, that all, is not well, in the world.

But, BUT, you don't need me, to tell you that. You don't need me, to tell you about, injustice, and heartbreak, bereavement, and ill health, cancer, and redundancy, family breakdown, and pain. Because you know, **you know, about those things, already.**

For all, of our stories, are tinged with sadness, we all carry some anxiety, some fear with us; we know, we are facing, a daunting and difficult task, we know, we can't do it, in our own strength, but we also have hope – and that hope, is in Jesus the Son of God, who on Good Friday, bore our sins, bringing grace, and mercy, to you and me; and on this day, He rose from death, the final victory, bringing you, and me eternal life, a life with God, forever. In the world's eyes, Jesus' death was the end. In the world's eyes, we live at a time, when so much, of life, seems out of control.

But, BUT, those of us, with eyes, and hearts of faith, we know, on this day of all days, that Jesus death, was not the end, for on the third day, He, HE rose again. Yes, it's incredible, Yes it's amazing, but, BUT it's true, and because He lives, we live, and **we can, face tomorrow.**

To Conclude : because of Jesus, because, we believe, in resurrection, we have hope. Let me say that again, **because of Jesus, because, we believe, in resurrection, we have hope.**

Ok, so when it comes, to questions, like, 'why are we here ?' or 'what is the meaning of life ?' or 'Is this, all there is, to existence ?', well, we don't know quite, how to answer, because life, is a journey for some, and a pilgrimage, for others. As for where is God ?, and what happens when we die, well that depends, whether we are looking, through the worlds eyes or eyes of faith. For eyes of faith, see a God who, is with us, even in the darkest of times, a God who promises, to be with us, and to know us, in this world, and the next.

Finally : When we think about the future, when we face up to uncertainty, fear and anxiety, when we watch the news, or live, with the pain, of our families and friends, we can't bring, immediate resolution. We can't fix, everything, overnight. But we have, hope, abundant hope, fabulous hope, amazing hope, everlasting hope. For as Paul, puts it in Colossians, we, WE, are 'made alive' in Christ.

My Friends, the result being, that we, you and I, **can face tomorrow**, live life, to the full, lives lived in hope, because we, **WE, are resurrection people.**

So today, in this moment in history, in this moment in time, we can, WE CAN, live with the uncertainty of life, because, BECAUSE ; Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

Blessing

May we who have met with the risen Jesus Christ

Go out gladly from this place,

Ready to share the good news that He is alive.

The blessing of God,

Father Son and Holy Spirit be upon us

And remain with us and those we love, always.

Amen