

Easter 2018

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

In ancient days, early on the morning of the first Sunday after the first full moon following the equinox, Christians would gather in the catacombs or at the graves of those who had died, to greet the rising sun with a sacred fire.

For the Jewish people, our ancestors in faith, it was the time of the Passover – a time to remember how God had chosen a people to be his own and made with them a powerful covenant, “I will be your God, and you will be my people!” It was a time to remember how God had shepherded his people through times of great anguish, bringing them out of slavery and into a land of their own. It was a time to celebrate God’s eternal faithfulness, and the gift of redemption to a people who would turn to God.

For the earliest Christians, many of whom counted themselves amongst the Hebrews as well, that Easter fire tied together God’s ancient promise of redemption with it’s world-changing fulfillment. God – in Christ - had become part of creation itself! The world was redeemed, not just by the offer of a sacrifice, and an expression of penitence, but by God’s deliberate choice: Creator and creation had become one, in such a way that evil could no longer force it’s way between them ever again!

Evil had tried... and the Christ had been killed... but on the morning of the third day he rose again because, in the words of St Francis, there is not enough darkness in all the world to extinguish the light of even one small flame... let alone the light of Christ. And so a fire was lit, a fire that burns in the darkness, a fire which cannot be overcome.

Those early Christians would face terrible persecution for their faith. Many lost their lives. They lived in a world in which it was not hard to put a face on evil. Yet still, they gathered. And in every way they could, they sought to let the light of faith shine out into the darkness... and in the end, they were not overcome.

Today, two thousand years on, we gather still. The Easter vigil service, with its sacred fire, and the passing of a candle flame from believer to believer through the darkened church as the sun rises, is not as popular as once it was. Getting up at five in the morning is hard, and fire marshals and insurers get skittish at the thought of naked flames in old wooden buildings. But the essence of our proclamation remains: “Christ is risen! Alleluia! There is not enough darkness in all the world to extinguish the light of God!”

And with that proclamation, we make the same commitment of faith as those many generations who have gone before us: Giving thanks for the life which is God’s loving gift to us, and knowing that our truest worship of our Creator is to carry that light of love out into God’s world, in St Francis words again may our Easter celebration of hope be simply this: Lord, make me for others an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy... for such is the gift you have already given to us.

Thanks be to God! And a blessed Easter to you all
Fr Doug



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday of the Passion

Sunday March 25th - Combined Service 9:30am

Wednesday March 28th

10am Holy Communion followed by 11am Bible Study

Seder Supper - 5:30pm (by ticket only)

Maundy Thursday

Liturgy of the Last Supper with Foot Washing, Readings, Music & Holy Communion

Thursday March 29th - 7pm

Good Friday

Friday March 30th - 10am

Easter Sunday

Sunday April 1st - 8:30am & 10:30am

Second Sunday of Easter and Pageant

Sunday April 8th

8:30am - Holy Eucharist

10:30am - Family Service with Celebration of the Resurrection



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