

Easter Day 2022 Ugley and Henham

Christ is Risen. He has risen indeed!

Of Eggs and Chicks or Rabbits!

What do these things represent?

New life, spring life etc.

But they are not really about Easter, Easter is not simply about the change from winter to spring!

These chicks and Rabbits will die and be no more. So let's remove them from our Easter service, eat the eggs (have an Easter egg) and would someone like to take the rabbit and see if he wants to go and escape to the fields!

The Times we live in. Our world has lost the plot. It should make us sad. Do you remember on Palm Sunday as Jesus went up to Jerusalem on his way to the cross, he wept over the city because he said they did not know the things that make for peace. Our world today, our nation, does not know what belongs to its peace. Politics is constantly telling us what it can do to give us peace and prosperity but it seems further away than ever.

The only thing that really belongs to our peace is the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead

Easter is about not new spring life but what the Bible calls everlasting life. Eternal Life.

The Bible teaches us that all life on this planet has an ending. Chicks hatch and end up on our dinner plates and rabbits are either pets in a rabbit hutch or destructive pests. We too will die and the Bible tells us that this is because we have not obeyed God's instruction manual. Because mankind has been disobedient this world is breaking down.

What does disobedient mean?

The Bible calls this sin.

I don't have to remind you that the world today is in desperate crisis, where-ever you look.

The Bible tells us that because of this disobedience to God's word, our lives are limited, we are going to die like the chicks and Rabbits.

Some of us may die young. My niece died at 13 in a terrible train accident at Elsenham Station, the bridge over the line is a memorial to her and her friend's death. Two of my great grandfather's children died only a few hours old and then his wife tragically died and how he loved her . Joan's aunt lived to 99. I once did a root canal treatment for a patient when he was nearly 100. I took a special picture of it and he took it when he went to visit the Queen! She said to him, "How wonderful. He lived until he was 102.

But Jesus said, ' Truly, truly, I say to you if any one obeys my word he will never see death' John 8 v51

What did he mean? How did he show that that was true?

On the first Easter day, Jesus proved that what he said was true.

He rose from the dead. We read in our reading that there was a violent earthquake. God has to do violent things in the crust of the earth to show us that he is the creator, that he alone is in charge of the living and the dead. That rending of the earth's crust was not to let the risen Lord of creation out of a stone tomb but to show that the tomb was empty. Yes, the resurrection of Jesus should declare to us that it is God alone who creates out of nothing and gives life, not chance and millions of years.

What will you see if you walk round the churchyard?

You will see grave stones marking where people have died and been buried.

Jesus was put to death on a cross on Good Friday but on Easter day he came through a stone door which had been placed over his grave. He really came to life again. His metabolically dead flesh was remade by the power of God the creator.

Jesus came to life again, not as a good example of positive thinking, not to show us about winter turning to spring, about eggs, chicks and Rabbits but to show us that he is the Lord of Life, to show us that he is the Creator, that he is the one who controls the universe, that he is God.

He rose from the grave to show us that he has power over the death and disaster that has been swamping our world ever since our first parents choose to disobey the word of God.

In dying on the cross, Jesus removed our sin and disobedience and by rising from his grave proved what he had done.

What have we here? Bread

Why do we eat bread? So that we can live.

One day Jesus had been with the crowds, teaching them. There were about 5000, and they were hungry. They had five loaves and two fishes. Jesus made that go round, so that everyone had enough and seconds if they wanted it!

What would have happened if the people had stayed with Jesus the next day?

They would have become hungry.

Let's eat some bread.....

You've had an Easter Egg , you've had some bread. Is that going to be enough food for you today?

No.

What will happen if we don't eat enough?

We will die

Would someone read: Page
John ch 6 V27, v32, 35

Jesus said, "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you".

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁵Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Jesus said, I am the bread of life, if you eat of me you will live for ever.

What does eating of Jesus mean? It means that Jesus is as important as our daily bread, in fact it means that Jesus is more important to us than our daily bread!

It means that Jesus came to provide us with himself and that means if we trust him we will live for ever, we will have everlasting life.

What will most of us be doing next week, unless you are on a pension and have provided for the future?

Yes, we will be going to work to pay for food, bread that perishes. That is eaten, spoiled, and is gone.

This is Easter day, we are reminded that Jesus has done something very, very wonderful. Because he has risen from the dead, we can share in his life which will never end. So that even though we will die, young or old, unless Jesus returns, it is not the end of life. We begin a new stage in this life and in the life to come. And Jesus also promises that he will create a new world in which there will be, no war, no terrorism, no need to protest against global warming, no pandemic, no environmental crisis. He will make a new world in which dying and death will be past for ever, how can he do that? He is the Creator, he rose from the dead!

We have communion on Easter day to remind us that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world .

Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God ?

Jesus is called the Lamb of God because every Easter at Passover a lamb was taken into the family home in Israel, it almost became a pet but then it had to be killed, its blood was shed so that the people's sins could be forgiven and washed away and they could escape from their enemies in Egypt. That is why at communion we drink the wine, It represents the blood of Jesus shed so that because of Jesus, God can forgive us our sin and disobedience and give us his new life. We eat the bread to remind us that Jesus is the bread of life, and he rose from the dead to prove it and to give us that bread from heaven which will make us live for ever.

Easter has nothing to do with eggs, chicks or bunnies. It has everything to do with Jesus who is the bread of life and the lamb of God who gives us everlasting life if we trust in him.

Can I ask you a final question, Is Jesus the bread of life to you? Is Jesus the lamb of God who took your place and shed his blood so that you might live for ever?