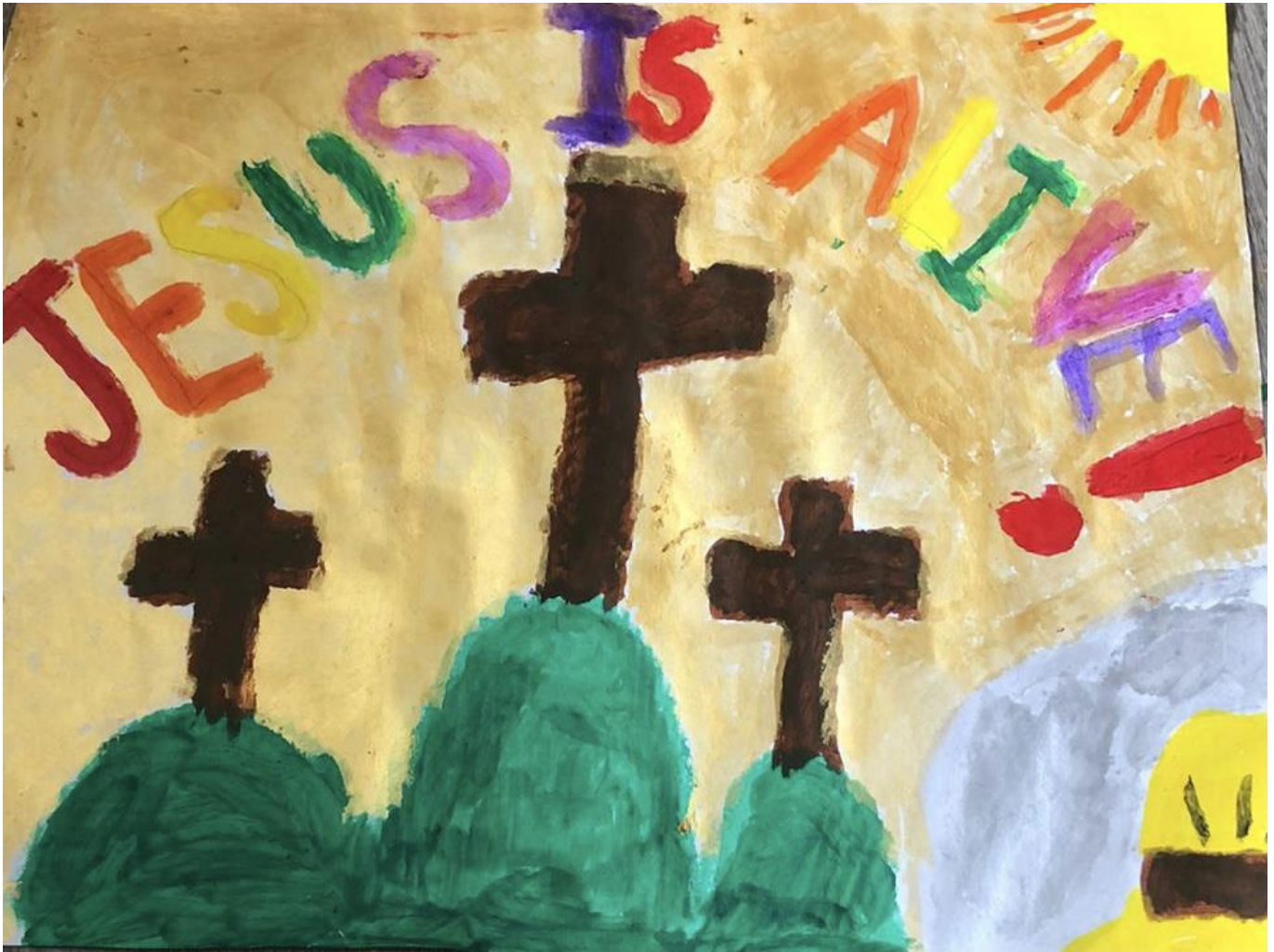


Downton Baptist Church

11th April 2021 Gospel Sunday Morning Worship

WELCOME



Good Morning.

Our Service is being filmed and broadcast live from the Church field. We have produced this so you can read the transcripts of the Service. The prayers and the talk. We hope you find this helpful.

We are now able to meet in the church field for our services. If you would like to come next week, then please ring the Church office to let us know and we can help you to make sure you have what you need.

God Bless, Philip and Katy

This is website address if you can access it.

www.downtonbaptist.org/Groups/337711/Pastors_Message.aspx

PRAYERS

By Katy

Eternal Father, Gracious and true
Your love never fails,
Even when we are lacking,
Your beauty in completeness is selfless,
Even when we are selfish,
Your giving is entirely,
Even when we restrain,
Your forgiveness is restorative,
Even when we are judgmental,
Your love for us keeps no record of wrongs,
Even when we stumble and fall,

Thank you for Your great love,
That plays like a majestic orchestra of heavenly cymbals,
That resounds through the ages beyond
That fills our present with the gift of true life.

In Your great mercy and hope
We praise you in faith and love.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray.

Amen

READING

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of

wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

The Resurrection of Christ

15 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. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

TALK

by Philip

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A week after the events of Easter we have the chance to draw breath together

To try our very best to take it all in

It's important... because it is life

And where better to look than this extraordinary chapter in Paul's first letter to Corinth

We read it as part of our service last week...and we are reading it again today

Jesus wasn't afraid of repetition...if it matters it matters!

This is perhaps the beginning of one of the greatest writings about the resurrection

And indeed, the future hope that we are all given

Paul wants the Corinthians to truly understand where they are...

...and who they are...In God's own story

They...like all of us...are in danger of amnesia

Of forgetting their roots

Roots we've been given through Jesus...because we belong to the vine himself

Remember the image the he gave us

I am the Vine, you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I in them, they will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing

We who remain in his love...who obey his commands...

...have roots in Christ who has brought God's story to its climax

Friends...

They...and when I say they...I always mean we...have to learn now to live according to the scriptures

Not in the sense that we are to take little bits of the Bible as our guide to life

That's very tempting isn't it?

The scriptural selection box...

Now which one will I take today...mmmm...

We all have our favourites...our green triangles...

But we also steer clear of the strawberry ones

...The inconvenient and chewy ones

The ones that don't suit us

That isn't what is meant by living according to the scriptures

Paul means in the much larger sense that all of scripture tells a story...GOD'S story

And therefore...Our story

Creation's story

And that the seamless narrative of the bible has come to new life in Jesus the Christ

In his life, his death and in his glorious resurrection

For what I received I passed on to you as first of importance, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures...

It is so important to know where we stand in this story

Where we belong

Only then can we see the world in the correct light

God has somehow bought you...you belong to him...through Jesus' death

And God has raised you to new life as he raised Jesus

So...who you are and what you do with this present body of yours...

Is vitally important

You are to live the risen life right now...

If you think about those beautiful words from 1 Corinthians 13 that we are so familiar with...

...A whole chapter dedicated to love

The deepest point there is that this is the life you are to live
AND...love is the one thing which will last

The one thing that will pass with you into the new world that God will make

Love never fails

We've seen this in Jesus...in his teaching, his healing, his death and his resurrection

Friends...

There are many things that I believe...that I know are limited for now

The limits of my knowledge are very obvious to me...I know I don't know...so many things

BUT...I know and trust love

Because I know Jesus the risen Lord

Love has defeated death...Love is the meaning of it all...Love is the one thing that lasts

There is a new world...a new creation

A world defined by love

And it has been begun in Jesus and his resurrection

AND there's more...

...All of God's people...all of you...will be given new bodies so we can share in this love forever

We really need to know this in our heads but we need to feel it in our guts

All is profoundly well

The resurrection is the bottom line of our hope, our faith

It is the ground zero of being a Christian

This is not a strange and imagined story that the disciples concocted

Or that Paul dreamed up

No...They all tell the same story

By the time of the writing of this letter, it had already become a carefully guarded truth

This is what we preach and this is what you believed

This is the foundation

This is the story that forms the gospel...it is the announcement of the good news of Jesus Christ

This is the message that Paul could not and would not contain

The message that the love of God compelled him to share

That compels me to preach

This is the message that carries the power of God

The message that brings people to a living, breathing faith

Into a living knowledge and love of God

If we are to be Christians...this is the ground on which we must stand

The solid ground on which we are to build our homes

Paul offers us the whole story...in short sharp images

The messiah...his terrible death...his burial...His resurrection on the third day

The people who then saw him

Cephas [Peter], the twelve disciples, five hundred witnesses at one time, James who was Jesus own brother

Then of course there was Paul...The last person to see the risen Jesus

The very last apostle

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called apostle, because I persecuted the church of God

And all of this, friends, is to be found running like a golden thread through the whole of the scriptures

When Paul says that everything happened according to the bible, he is of course not talking about the New Testament

This is not about the gospel stories that we know and love

The truth is that they had not even been written when Paul wrote this letter

This predates Matthew, Mark, Luke and John's writing

Nor is Paul proof texting...as many of us are prone to do

He's not just picking texts passages from the OT which predicted that the Messiah would die and be raised again

Though of course there are many scriptures that do that very thing

No

The Bible is far richer and deeper and wonderful than that

This is the bible that Jesus read and believed...The bible in which he found himself

This is the scripture which Paul had known and loved as a young man

A story that was searching for an ending

And when Jesus was raised from the dead all of the threads...every one...came together

The way, the truth and the life

This was the ending...and the beginning...

Perhaps we are not always clear about what resurrection means?

We need to understand what it meant to Paul and the people he preached to

Resurrection didn't just mean a life after death

No, it had and has a very specific meaning

People who are already dead, will be given new bodies...

They would return to an embodied life, not completely unlike the one they had before

Only more wonderful

This was not a new belief

It had been popular among some Jews for at least 2 to 3 centuries before Paul

But it had also been denied not only throughout the pagan world...but also by many Jewish groups

Including the aristocratic Saducees

In fact, you may remember Jesus arguing the case for resurrection with the Saducees on several occasions.

When Paul spoke about Jesus being raised from the dead

Nobody in Corinth thought he simply meant that Jesus had gone after his death into a glorious but non bodily existence

Those of us who speak about Jesus being raised to heaven have simply not understood what Paul is saying

What sort of body Jesus had...and what sort of body we will have...Is an important question

I encourage you to go and read further into this chapter where Paul expands on what the resurrection body looks like

But the most important fact is that there is a resurrection body

Something new...As God intends

At the end of this Passage Paul draws us back to the most important thing

All of this...as hard as it is to believe at times...is God's grace

It is all freely given

This is all about God's grace

God's incredible grace at work in and through the most unlikely people...The Corinthians...with all their mistakes and faults

Through Paul the persecutor of God's church

Through You and me...with all that we know lies within us

But by the grace of God I am what I am and his grace to me was not without effect

Friends...

What effect does his grace have on you?

For Paul it changed absolutely everything...how could this message do anything less unless we have not believed it?

This truth...is the truth

Again...This is the centre of everything...

The heart of Christianity

Our faith is not simply a set of ideas

Our faith is not a path of spiritual growth

It isn't a set of rules for a good life

It's isn't a political agenda

...It somehow includes all of these things

...It gives energy and life to all of these things

...But it is something very different

Our message is the good news about an event that we celebrated last week

That we must live and breathe and rejoice in every day

Our message is the good news about an event that has changed everything...

We will never be the same again

Because of the glorious the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ

Friends...

Those who truly believe it...and those that live it...

Have risen into new life

They live in the light of love

Church...By the grace of God we must live that life here and now...To his glory

May that be so for us all

Amen

PRAYERS

By Katy

We thank you that all is well.
That all is indeed well.

Your voice is the truth, that we desire to speak,
In the world that is thrown in the waves,
The sick and bereaved to feel love inside,
And a comforting healing beyond what's seen.
Through it all, our eyes are on You
Through it all, it is well

Your love is the song, that we desire to sing,
For those who are trapped in the swirl,
Victims of greed and power, who hide from the guns,
For your justice to come and heal the wounds.
Through it all, our eyes are on You
Through it all, it is well

Your grace is the whisper, that that we desire to hear
Into the ears of the alone and at sea
Prisoners of the life, the have not chosen to lead
For your freedom to show lead us out
Through it all, our eyes are on You
Through it all, it well

Your hope is the tune, that we desire to share,
To the frightened, caught in the storm,
Abuse and control that breaks open hearts,

For your love to shatter the fear and gloom
Through it all, our eyes are on You
Through it all, it is well.

Your power is the word, that we desire to shout,
That lifts out of death into life,
For impossible prayers to be heard through the waves,
For the blessings of those we're called to love.
Through it all, our eyes are on You
Through it all, it is well.

Praise be to God. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

BLESSING

May the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all today and forevermore. **Amen**