



The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Edition 2: Sunday 12th April 2020: Easter Day!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the second edition of the Aldershot and North Camp Anchor. Thank you to all who responded with words of appreciation and encouragement – and thank you to all those who entered the competition!

This Sunday we celebrate Easter Day, and we rejoice in the good news that Jesus is risen from the dead! The message of resurrection proclaims the victory of light over darkness, the victory of life over death and the victory of God over all that is wrong in this world.

This message is relevant for every day of our lives, but perhaps this message speaks with particular power to each one of us as we walk through these challenging days.

I pray that you will know the light of the risen Jesus shining on you as we share in our (socially distanced) Easter celebrations.

Yours in His service,

Chris Blake



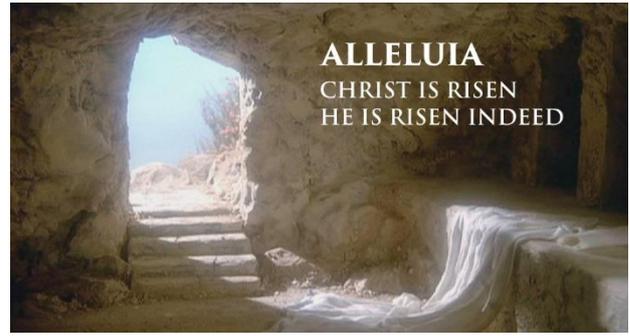
Worship Information

On Sunday there are opportunities to share in Morning Worship on the television on BBC1 as well as on local radio and Radio 4.

For those with access to the internet there is a live service led by Rev Billy Slatter at Fleet. This can be found on the 'Fleet Methodist Services' Facebook page.

A selection of other Methodist live streamed services can be found through the Methodist Church Website.

Easter Sunday Reflections



Introduction: The Festal Shout!

Christ is risen: He is risen Indeed – Alleluia!

Hymn (StF 309)

See what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes
Tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!

Prayer

Living God, we praise you for the wonder of Easter - the day that changed the world for ever! We rejoice in the victory of Christ, his triumph over evil, hatred, despair and even death itself. Living God, we praise you for the victory you have won, and for the assurance it brings to us that nothing in life or death can ever separate us from your love. To you be praise and glory, this day and always. Amen.

Bible Reading

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." Now I have told you.'

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.' (Matthew 28 v 1-10)

Reflection

Easter Day is a great day of celebration. That statement is true even when, as this year, we are not able to gather together in our church buildings to mark that fact. The empty tomb of Easter Day provides the evidence that the battle of the Good Friday cross was won by Jesus, the suffering servant. Jesus' victory over evil has a cosmic eternal dimension and we can know that, ultimately, God's ways and God's Kingdom will triumph at the end of time. That victory, however, also has a personal dimension for us today for we know that when we trust in Jesus our individual lives can be transformed and we can know God's forgiving love in our lives.

It is said that the phrase 'Do not be afraid' comes 366 times in the Bible – one for each day of the year including leap years! I have to say that I've not counted them myself, but it is certainly true that this is a frequently used phrase in the Bible. Today, we particularly note that it comes twice in Matthew's account of the resurrection of Jesus.

On this most unusual Easter Day we find great comfort and strength in those words spoken on that resurrection morning first by the angel and then by the risen Jesus "Do not be afraid!". They are words spoken to each one of us today.

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the resurrection we offer our prayers to God. Remember, O Lord in your love:

- the world you have made
- the church throughout the world
- those who suffer and all who mourn
- those known to us, particularly.....

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

Hymn (StF 313)

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won!*

Final Prayer

Gracious God, open our eyes to your risen presence and, as you walk with us, help us to walk with you. Amen.

Competition

Thank you to everyone who sent in suggestions for what 'hor' could stand for in ANCHOR. Here are just some of the ideas.

He's Our Rock - Hour Of Refection - Holding Onto Reality - Hands Out-Reached - Holding Onto (our/the) Rock - Hail Our Redeemer - Holy Omniscient and Righteous - Hope Of Restoration Hear Our Requests - Heart Of Renewal Honour Our Redeemer

Each of these suggestions has something to make us think! Thank you to everyone who responded.

A special mention to Yvonne Farrar at Aldershot who, as well as sending in one of the suggestions above, also sent the photograph below. It's a photograph taken at a Flower Festival at Aldershot in 2016. The theme for this particular arrangement was the hymn 'Will your anchor hold?' and, as you can see, the arrangement included the combined cross and anchor symbol that we have chosen for this devotional newsletter. Thank you, Yvonne.



Feedback

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we might use the 'Anchor' mailing in the weeks ahead, then please let me know by email (chris.blake@methodist.org.uk) or by telephone (01252 548215). Many thanks Rev. Chris Blake