

From the Desk of
Reverend Dr. John Tattersall

CHRIST IS RISEN – HALLELUJAH!

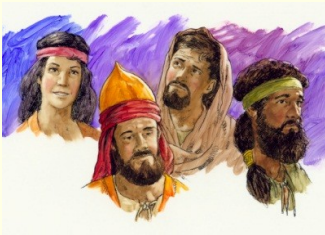
So, here we are at April –the month in which, this year, we celebrate EASTER.

R. W. Dale was the pastor at Carr’s Lane Congregational Chapel in Birmingham, England during the nineteenth century. He was studying the Gospel accounts on the resurrection of Jesus. Dale became so convicted of the reality of Jesus’ resurrection that he suddenly rose from his desk and began to pace back and forth in his study saying, "I want my people to know as I do He is alive. He is alive! He is alive!" The custom began at Carr’s Lane of singing a Resurrection hymn at the beginning of the service every Sunday morning.

The Resurrection of Christ is not up for debate. If Jesus is God then it would be more unbelievable if he had not risen from the dead! In the Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament the writer has a wonderful chapter on faith. He begins:

Hebrews 11:1

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

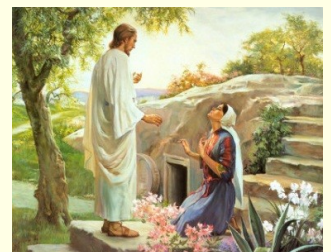


He then tells of many of the great heroes of the Old Testament and how they lived by faith. By that we mean that they did not *see* the evidence but they still believed. They believed God’s promises even though the outcome of those promises never became visible to them. They are wonderful examples of faithful lives. But we do not follow them. We are not *their* disciples. God’s promises are ultimately fulfilled in Christ. Although we are on the ‘other side’ of the Resurrection of Christ, as it were, we are to live as the Old Testament people lived – believing without seeing – in order to become fully mature believes.

Hebrews 11:39 - 40

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

So, at Easter, we do not debate, we Celebrate! On the first Easter morning Mary went to the tomb weeping. She knew Jesus was dead and buried. Then she met him – her risen Lord. Her sadness turned to joy. Two men walking home from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus showed their sadness in their faces. The stranger asked them why they were sad. They told him of their shattered hopes. They had been friends of Jesus and they had hoped that he was the One who would redeem Israel. The stranger reminded them what was written in the Scriptures (the Old Testament) and how everything that had happened had been foretold.



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They needed to go on believing. At supper he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then it all became clear. Then they recognized him. No stranger but Jesus – alive! They could not wait. They set off back the way they had come until, reaching Jerusalem they told their story. But they were not the only ones. Others had met Jesus and sadness was turned to joy. It was a time to celebrate.

These, and many others, had the privilege of seeing Jesus alive. We do not. Jesus said that those who believe without seeing are especially blessed. Down through the years and the centuries the transforming power of Easter has continued. Today, Christians are still Easter people. Every church is a Community of the Resurrection. Easter is April 24 this year. All over the world Christians will be celebrating. Check out our Easter Services at Christ Community. If you can, celebrate with us. Have a blessed Easter.



Easter Season Sermons

Continuing the series JESUS' LOVE AND GREATNESS

April 3 Understand What Jesus Says

April 10 Good Teachers for Jesus

April 17 Jesus is Our King - *Palm Sunday*

April 24 The Broken Easter Egg - *EASTER DAY*

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday (April 17) 11:00 AM Worship Service

Wednesday (April 20) 6:00 PM 'Love Feast' (supper) with Communion

Good Friday (April 22) 7:00 PM Service of the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY (April 24) Easter Celebration Worship for all the Family
(followed by our annual Easter Sunday Brunch)



COUNCIL NEWS & NOTES

On Sunday, March 27th, we were pleased to welcome CALVARY'S LIGHT to our worship service. Their music ministry is truly outstanding and when they come back to visit again, you will want to make sure you are here!



Continuing with the Easter season, we will have a special Palm Sunday Service, a Communion Supper on the Wednesday before Easter, a Good Friday Service of the Cross, and of course, our Easter Sunday Festival Family Service and Brunch (see the opposite page for more information).

The newly formed Land Use Committee met for the first time in March, and the next meeting is scheduled for April 6 at 4:30pm. If you have an interest in serving on this committee, but are unable to make the meeting, please call the church office.

The Strategic Planning Committee will meet on April 7 at 1:30pm. The Church Constitution/Bylaws is going through a final review before being presented to the congregation for review and approval.

If you haven't done so already, please check out the new church website www.orlandoccc.org. You will be pleasantly surprised how easy it is to access information about our church - not to mention how great it looks!



The church council meeting this month will be on Monday, April 11 at 7:15pm. We always welcome all of our church members and friends to attend these meetings.

Warmest Easter wishes to you and your families!

*Janell Newton
Church Council Secretary*

COME AND FIND OUT



Did you know that there was an Egyptian pharaoh who believed there was only one God and closed down all the temples to the other gods? And that was long before Moses was born. Do you know why the Israelites did not travel straight to the Promised Land when they left Egypt? Do you know how many of the Judges of Israel actually judged? What did they do? Why was Israel divided into two kingdoms? What's the difference between Syrians and Assyrians? Does it matter?!

You can find the answers to these and many other questions on Wednesday evenings. In our Bible Study we are tracing the history of the Old Testament. We are trying to see what happened when and what fits in where. We look at maps, watch pictures, and try to remember long words and funny names.

Why not come and join us. Bring your questions and your insights to help us all grasp the story. We also eat, talk, laugh and pray. It is a wonderful time in the middle of the week. Now the light evenings are here why don't you **come and find out**.