

Sermon Easter Sunday Hlland Benefice 2020. Acts 10:34-43, and John 20:1-18. Telephone Conference

He is risen Hallelujah !!!! Today is the most wonderful celebration in the Christian Calendar. The resurrection of Jesus is the fulfillment of Salvation. Jesus died once and for all for every single person. This is the fulfillment of Scripture and prophecy. The old ways of sacrifice and law give way to the new ways of freedom and love.

Sunday was the first day of the week and Mary Magdalene got up whilst it was still dark and went to the tomb alone. The tomb was probably a cave and a large stone had been placed over the entrance.

The stone had been rolled away Mary thought Jesus's body had been stolen and was very distressed, running to find help she told Peter and John what had happened, they ran back with her to the tomb.

In this Scripture John is not referred to by name but as the other disciple to Peter, or Jesus' favourite disciple. We know this to be John who was there with Jesus's mother at the crucifixion, Jesus said she would now be John's mother.

John got to the tomb first but Peter true to his nature bursts inside and saw the grave cloths

The life application study bible says that The linen wrappings were still in place as though Jesus had passed right through them. The cloth around his face was still there rolled up as though around his head.

John recognised that Jesus had risen. Scripture says he “just believed”. Peter was puzzled and needed to check out the facts. They hadn't been told that Jesus would rise from the dead.

Peter and John were amazed at what had happened and raced off to tell the other disciples what had happened. .

Mary remained outside the tomb, she was stood weeping and grieving for her teacher. As she stooped down to look inside the tomb she could see two angels one at the head and one at the feet of where Jesus would have been.

Where did the angels come from ? why didn't they speak to Peter and John. They asked her, “why are you crying” ? She simply wanted to know where her Lords body was and as she asked this Jesus appeared. She didn't know him until he said “Mary”, and she replied “teacher” Sometimes we see what we expect to see, God's still small voice when we listen can cut through all our natural thinking to the simple truth.

The stone hadn't been rolled away to let Jesus out, it had been rolled away so they could see he had gone.

The resurrection is a very difficult concept to understand. It is supernatural and outside our experience. It seems illogical and impossible. Understanding what Jesus did is impossible until we move into a personal spiritual relationship with him, acknowledging that he died for us as an individual, as well as for the whole world. Jesus had to die to pay the price for all the sins of humankind so He could send the Holy Spirit to be with us, to help us live the way the Bible teaches; loving God above all others and loving everyone as

we love ourselves. This is an absolutely tall order and can only be done with the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We can deepen our relationship by talking to God and asking Him to be part of our lives. Having free will means that we need to make the first move. Father Son and Holy Spirit are bound by this promise. We can not be controlled by God against our will, but can choose to live our lives with His love and direction and the graceful help of the Holy Spirit.

The resurrection of Jesus is the key to our Christian faith. Because he was resurrected we can be resurrected and can be sure that He will accomplish what he promised.

Death is not the end it is part of our eternal life which we are promised as Christians. It is this divine power which brought Jesus back to life and brings us to life as Christians when we live day by day with God.

The resurrection bringing Salvation is our Christian witness to the world. I think there are almost as many ways of coming to Christ as there are stars in the sky and I have told my story many times to encourage people to look for Jesus for themselves, in Scripture and in simple conversation. Speaking to God the truth exactly how we feel. He knows anyway !!....

After I asked God to come into my life and really meant it the tears just came and I felt brand new. After I dried my eyes I felt an amazing peacefulness in me and in the room.

I know some of you have known Jesus for a long time and don't remember making a specific decision but know Jesus and have that

special relationship. And some of you remember a time when you changed like I did. Others grew up in faith and can't remember a time when they didn't know God.....How wonderful.....

Let's pray together. Please pray after me

Lord my heavenly Father
Thank you for loving me enough
to send your Son Jesus Christ
to the Cross to die for my sins.
I thank you Jesus that you went
And You suffered in my place
So I can live with you
My resurrection life
Eternally in paradise.
Amen