

Rector's Letter - Rev'd Jeremy Trew - April 2022

Dear Friends,

A man fell off a cliff but managed to grab hold of a branch on the way down. He hung there and shouted to the top, "Is anyone up there?"

"Yes," came the reply, "God is up here!"

"Can you help me, God?"

"Yes."

"What do you want me to do?"

"Let go of the branch."

There was an agonising pause.

"Is there anybody else up there?"



Faith is a tricky issue. It is something that cannot be seen or proven. It is beyond our ability to rationally explain. Faith may even be something we do not know we possess until we have reason to express it: It may be the prayer of our heart grieving for the one we have lost: It may be the declaration of love though we cannot give the reason why. Faith is both maddeningly perplexing and joyously rewarding. It may be many things, but you cannot pin it down.

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Faith is also the great theme of Easter. At Easter we remember the crucifixion of Jesus; a real and tortuous event. But, unless there is faith, this event demonstrates nothing more than the barbarity humanity is capable of. Easter invites us to believe that these events possessed meaning far beyond their actual content: that the suffering of that lonely man was for a purpose and that in a mysterious way it achieved something that no normal death could ever achieve. That is the theme we explore over Easter, and I would like to invite you to join in the various activities of our church as we do this; to let go of the branch and discover what God will do.

Sadly, human barbarity has never ended. Recent events in Ukraine have shown us that. But these events are just the latest and nearest to grab our attention. Syria, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Yemen; these are just a few of the places where humanity's foolishness rumbles on. And we would do well to remember that there have been many seeking safety on our shores long before Putin's act of war. Fear is a powerful motivator. It has motivated those seeking sanctuary. It has motivated others to stay and fight. It may even be the motivation behind Russia's actions. The first word Jesus spoke after the resurrection to his fearful disciples was "peace". If we meet those who live in fear with our own fears, there will never be an end to conflict. But, if we can conquer our own fears and respond with peace then there is hope. That is no easy task. In fact, it is near impossible by ourselves, for it requires that we let go of the branch.

Yours

Jeremy

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