

Resurrection Sunday ~ April 9, 2023

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

"I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:50-56)

Prayer. Our Heavenly Father, as we come before you today, knowing even if everything else is changing around us, you are still our rock and fortress, and are unchanging. You are always there for us, dependable and true to your promises, for you provide us with all that we need.

And Lord, as we come together on this day, Resurrection Sunday, we are reminded of your greatest provision. That as you promised, you sent us your one and only son, to die for us and to pay the price for our sins. That Jesus, although he did not sin, and was without blemish, was punished and died a cruel death on a cross, so that we might be saved. And Lord, we thank you that through Jesus' death and resurrection, he demonstrated that death has been defeated, that he is our Saviour and the King of Kings, and that we have the hope of being with you for eternity.

Lord, help us not to lose sight of what you have done for us. Help us to be reminded of your great love and mercy. And we ask that you will help us to love one another, and to live our lives in a way that pleases you and brings you glory. And Lord, we pray that opportunities may present themselves to let others know about you. We pray that we may be able to tell others of the true meaning of Easter, and that we may be able to encourage and support our brothers and sisters throughout this time. And we ask all these things in your Son's glorious and powerful name. Amen

Song – Jesus Christ is Risen Today [Jesus Christ Is Risen Today – OCP Choir \[Lyric Video\] - YouTube](#)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!</p> | <p>3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation has procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!</p> |
| <p>2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!</p> | <p>4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!</p> |

Bible Reading – Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV)

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes

were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are **looking for Jesus**, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. **Come and see** the place where he lay. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet & worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. **Go and tell** my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Announcements 9/4/23

Focus for April – Easter.

Over the Easter weekend it is good to think about the progression of the story of Jesus

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Cross	Stone	Empty Tomb
Dead	Buried	Life
Loss	Grief	Joy
Sin forgiven	Waiting for God to act	Life eternal

How will your Easter reflect the wonderful truths of Easter?

Easter Service

Last Supper Service	Thursday 6 th April	4:30pm (Swansea), 6pm (Charlestown)
Good Friday	Friday 7 th April	8am (Swansea), 9:45am (Charlestown)
Resurrection Sunday	Sunday 9 th April	8am (Swansea), 9:45am & 6pm (Charlestown)

Regular Activities. Over the school holidays our regular activities will go into recess. If you would like to serve in any way in Term 2, we would love to hear from you.

Kids Packs. Over the school holidays, our normal Kids Church programme is slightly modified. Kids up to year 2 can still go out to the hall for an age-appropriate lesson. Years 3 & 4 have the option of going to the hall or staying in church with a Kids pace. And those in Year 5 or above are encouraged to stay in Church.

Steve’s Leave. Stephen will be on holidays for the next week so if you need any pastoral assistance, please can you contact Jon.

AM Preaching Programme. Stephen will be preaching on the OT book of Joshua in term 2. It might be good to read it in preparation for our time together.

Joshua: The Promise Keeping God

23/4	Joshua 1	Be strong and courageous
30/4	Joshua 2	Extravagant grace
7/5	Joshua 3-4	Stepping out in faith
14.5	Joshua 5-6	Joshua didn’t fight the battle of Jericho!
21.5	Joshua 7-8	The setback due to sin

“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15 (NIV))

Marriage Course. The Church is thinking of running the Alpha Marriage Course on either a Thursday night or a Saturday afternoon in Weeks 3-9 of term 2. At the same time, we are hoping to have a child-minding option. If you are interested in being a part of this, please let Stephen know by Easter Sunday. We will make a final decision based on numbers in late April.

Jesus Revolution. A new movie out in cinemas from April 20. Might be worth a look?

Charlestown Churches 100th Anniversary. The Charlestown Church was formed 100 years ago this November. We are looking at forming a small group to think through how we might celebrate such a milestone event. If you would like to be a part of this group, please speak to Stephen, Jon or one of the elders. And if you have any historical memorabilia, please us know about it.

Bible Reading – Matthew 28:11-20 (NIV)

¹¹ “While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and **reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.** ¹² When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ **telling them,** “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night & stole him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Pastoral Prayer Points

Prayer based on Philippians 2:9-11: Our Lord Jesus, after your resurrection from the grave and ascension into heaven, God the Father highly exalted you and gave you the name that is above every name, so that at your return and the judgment, every knee will bow in heaven, and every knee will bow on earth, and every knee will bow under the earth and confess that “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Pray for Bangladesh: Pray for long-term transformation in the tragic battle against extreme poverty. Pray for an outpouring of servants willing to reach out to Bengali Muslims in the name of Christ. Pray for God to raise up spiritually mature leaders in the church who are committed to authentic discipleship.

“Things are topsy-turvy in your kingdom, God. Those living in poverty bear gifts of great worth, the dead rise, the meek inherit the earth. Teach us how to live in an upside-down world where we are called to welcome the outcast, prepare a feast for the ragged, and forgive those who offend us. Amen” - *from Common Prayer, A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals.*

Song – This I believe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNiYUPsHgls>

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Our Father everlasting | Bridge |
| The all-creating One | I believe in You |
| God Almighty | I believe You rose again |
| Through your Holy Spirit | I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord |
| Conceiving Christ the Son | (Repeat) |
| Jesus our Saviour | |
| | Chorus |
| I believe in God our Father | |
| I believe in Christ the Son | |
| I believe in the Holy Spirit | 3. I believe in life eternal |
| Our God is three in One | I believe in the virgin birth |
| I believe in the resurrection | I believe in the saints' communion |
| That we will rise again | And in Your Holy Church |
| For I believe in the Name of Jesus | I believe in the resurrection |
| (In the name o' Lord) | When Jesus comes again |
| | For I believe in the Name of Jesus |
| 2. Our Judge and our Defender | |
| Suffered and crucified | Chorus |
| Forgiveness is in You | |
| Descended into darkness | |
| You rose in glorious light | |
| Forever seated high | Chorus |

Sermon – How do you solve a problem like Jesus? (Stephen Taylor)

In that classic movie, *The Sound of Music*, the nuns in the convent sing a song “How do you solve a problem like Maria.” If you remember Maria is a young novice and she is so full of life that she is not fitting in well to the highly structured monastic life. And so, the mother superior comes up with an idea, she will give her a leave of absence so to speak and send her out to be a nanny for the former naval commander Georg von Trapp & his 7 lively kids.

In the same way when we come to the end of Matthew’s gospel, the chief priests feel they have finally solved the problem of Jesus. They had bribed one of his followers, Judas Iscariot to bring him in. They had convened two hasty Sanhedrin meetings that has condemned him for a capital offense. They had convinced the Roman commander Pontius Pilate to sentence him to death by crucifixion and then they were there when they saw him breathe his last breath. And to stop any rumours they had organised for a guard to keep watch over his tomb so that there was no chance for the disciples to steal his body.

Slide 2

He's finally gone. His final chapter has been written. It’s all done and dusted. But you can’t keep a good man down. You can’t stop the plans of God. You can’t keep the Son of God in the grave. And so, we read in Matthew 28 that on the third day Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus comes back to life. For Jesus doesn’t take defeat lying down.

Which causes a problem, actually lots of problems. For the religious leaders how are they going to solve the problem of Jesus now that the tomb is empty? And for the disciples what is going to happen to those who let him down? And where will being a disciple of Jesus take them next? Let’s turn to Matthew 28 where we the angel will tell the women firstly to

Slide 3

1. Come and See (verses 1-6)

“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.”

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Early on the Sunday morning the two Marys come to look at the tomb. They are not expecting anything dramatic to have happened over night. In fact, they have come laden with spices to properly prepare the body of Jesus to face its future decay. They were still sad, distraught, emotional but as they came closer, there were three things that happened to them that were totally unexpected.

Firstly, there was a violent earthquake. Have you ever been in a big earthquake? I have. And it’s frightening to see the ground lurch beneath you. Now remember there had been an earthquake just a couple of days earlier at the exact same time that Jesus is died. But here there was yet another earthquake, seemingly caused by another unusual occurrence, for an angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone back from the tomb.

⁴*“The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.”* Isn’t that ironic, that Jesus is alive & the guards now look like they are dead! And the stone has been rolled back not so that Jesus can now escape the tomb, but because the tomb is empty. The stone has been rolled back so that the women & the guards & the disciples that will soon come to this place can see that the tomb is empty. Jesus has well and truly risen.

This is the most decisive event of history. This is its absolute pinnacle! What everything has been leading up to until then. And it is witnessed by two women. Who would not be able to testify in court because of their gender. The greatest act since the creation of the world is firstly attested to by people who were widely discounted.

But the tomb is empty. The Lord has risen. His Word is true. His promises real. His death satisfactory. His atonement complete. His obedience perfect. His service acceptable. His victory total. And because Jesus rose from the dead, those who trust in Jesus, who are in Christ, can also rise back to life. Because it was the power of the Holy Spirit that enabled Jesus to accomplish this extraordinary feat & those who believe in Jesus, those who have access to God's Holy Spirit will have the power to do great things for the Lord as well.

Slide 5

⁵*"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are **looking for Jesus**, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. **Come and see the place where he lay.**"* Come and see. Before you is all the proof that you will ever need. Come and see, your Lord is no longer dead. Come and see, this is not the end, it is just the beginning.

And just as the women didn't actually see Jesus alive but believed on the evidence of the empty tomb, so there is a call for us today to **come and see**. Open your eyes to what God has done in the world and what God is currently doing in His world. Come and see the proof there is to the resurrection. It is more than enough to put your faith in Him. Come and see Jesus is no longer dead, he is alive even today. Friends come and see.

You might think that you are 2000 years too late to see anything. But that is not true. As a young adult, I was interested in the historicity of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. I rightly saw that if these things were true then I needed to give my life to Jesus but if they weren't true, it was perhaps the greatest fraud that has ever been perpetrated.

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And so, I read books like Frank Morrison's "Who moved the Stone." A book written by a sceptical lawyer wanting to disprove the resurrection who eventually was converted by looking closely at the proof. And then I read Josh McDowell's Evidence that Demands a Verdict and then his next book "More Evidence that Demands a Verdict" until I saw the truth of the Scriptures. It's true. He has risen! He has risen indeed.

What about you? Why don't you come and see? Look at the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John today. Closely study the evidence. Look at the alternatives. It all depends upon the resurrection of Jesus. As Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians, chapter 15. If there is no resurrection of Jesus then our faith is futile and we are still lost in our sins. But if he has been raised to life, then it is a sign we too will be saved into eternal life. But the call to come and see is followed by a second command

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2. Go and Tell (verses 7-10)

⁷*"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."* ⁸*So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples."*

Such news can't wait. This sort of happening must be reported to others, quick smart. Because it changes everything, absolutely everything. Without the resurrection there would be nothing to declare but because of it, who can remain silent? So, the women hurried away to tell the good news to the disciples. Yes, they were afraid, had they really seen what they had seen? But they were filled also with hope, meaning, purpose, joy. Yes joy!

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I am sure they hadn't pieced all the puzzle pieces together as yet. I am positive they didn't know exactly what had happen with Jesus' resurrection. But they followed Jesus' command. They ran, they ran & ran, when ⁹ *"Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.* ¹⁰ *Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. **Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."***

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They see Him. In the flesh. Not just a ghost because they grab his feet. They fall to the ground before him in wonder and worship and grab hold of him because they never want to let him go again. But they are still afraid. "How does this all work? Who is this man? What on earth is going on here?" And Jesus calms their fears. Go and tell the disciples that we will talk these things through in Galilee. Go, **go and tell my brothers.**

My bothers... The first words from Jesus to His disciples, through the lips of the women are to "My brothers." Now I ask you, if you were the God of the universe, and you had just been resurrected from the dead, and you had been abandoned by your disciples in the hour of your need, what would the first words have been that you spoke to them? "You have let me down big time. You ran away. I am so, so disappointed in you." But those were not Jesus first words. They were "My brothers."

How wonderful. How forgiving. How amazing. So, the women go, they run and tell the disciples all that has just happened. And shouldn't that be our reaction to the resurrection? Today we have come and seen again what happened that first Easter morning. Shouldn't we go and tell a world that wants to know there is life after death? A world that wants to know that there is hope in the midst of tough times? A world that wants to know the peace that passes all understanding? That those things are available to them because Jesus is alive!

Slide 10

Come & see. Go & tell. Well funnily enough it wasn't just the women who did that. There was another group of people that experienced the earthquake, that saw the angel and the stone rolled away and that was the guards. ¹¹ *"While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city & **reported to the chief priests everything that had happened"***

It's only the gospel of Matthew that records this part of the story. I wonder why? Is it because these guards saw but didn't, see? They told the chief priests the truth but the priests didn't want to hear the truth? They didn't want to see for themselves the facts of what has just happened to Jesus? Now the Pharisees had said to Jesus, while he was hanging on the cross, "come down from the cross and we will believe you." But they wouldn't have believed in Jesus, would they? Because here they are presented with the evidence of an earthquake, an angel and an empty tomb and they still won't believe!

Slide 11

In fact, they spread fake news in order to counter the good news. ¹² *"When the chief priests had met with the elders & devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ **telling them,** "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night & stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ *If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."* ¹⁵ *So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day."**

Now anyone can see that this story has more holes in it than Swiss cheese. 12 guards all fall asleep at once? Yeah right. And how do they know the disciples stole the body if they were all asleep? And how did the disciples managed to get past these trained soldiers if they were all awake? And won't the soldiers lose their lives for losing a prisoner, even a dead one! It's a hastily made-up story. But at least it confirms one important fact. The tomb was empty!

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So, what made the soldiers change their story? Money. Hush money. A large sum of money. Isn't that interesting. Time and time again in Matthew's gospel Jesus warns us of the dangers of money. And here

we see a case study on it. Money makes these guards lie. Money is used to conceal the truth rather than to reveal it. Money is given so that people don't come and see but instead are blinded to what has really gone on at Easter.

Even today something similar happens. The darkness wants to hide the light. And it attempts to do that through money, power, corruption, sin. It uses any means possible to discredit the good news of Jesus. Because it doesn't want to acknowledge the truth. That God is real. That this Jesus came to this earth to die for the sins of the world. And that this resurrection proves to all that he is Lord of all.

Slide 12

In his book, *Ends and Means*, philosopher Aldous Huxley makes a frank admission. He's honest. Listen to this. He said, *"I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning. Consequently, I assumed it had none and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption... The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system, and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality, because it interfered with our sexual freedom."*

Did you catch that? He embraced the philosophy of meaninglessness because it got in the road of his personal, moral choices. It interfered with his sexual freedom. It got in the way. It was terribly inconvenient. Moral rebellion is what so often stands behind intellectual doubts and philosophical unbelief.

Which is why many people say to us, I don't believe in the existence of God, I don't believe in the resurrection. I don't believe in Jesus. Not because they have looked into it deeply but because if it was true, they would have to have to change their lifestyle. And they like being the boss of their lives. They want to be able to sleep with whoever they want to, whenever they want to, they want to spend their money on their own desires, they want to live their own life. So, they believe the lies. They are blind to the truth.

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Friends this is important, really important. Come and see the cross and the resurrection. Go and tell the truth not the lies that the world wants to hear. Our passage here is contrasting the women who tell the truth and it will ultimately cost them greatly, to the soldiers who tell others lies because money has blinded them to doing what is right.

Is anything blinding you today? Is there something in your life pushing you away from the trust of a personal relationship with Jesus? Is there a relationship that needs to change. A job that has taken over. A habit that is destructive. A laziness that is seeped in? Today come and see, and then go and tell and lastly

Slide 15

3. Go and make disciples. (Verses 16-20)

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted." Did you notice that some of these believers still had doubts? Faith doesn't mean there is no fear. Belief is not so lock tight that there aren't times of unbelief. But notice even with their doubts, they worshipped him. And this mixture of worship and doubt points us back to the wonder of the incarnation, the miracles of Jesus and even the resurrection.

For friends we will still have our questions. We won't always be able to nail our theology down 100%. For even the resurrection of Jesus is for many of us a mixture of wonder and mystery. But the disciples still worship him despite their doubts and what does Jesus do? He still commissions them to go throughout the world, even though they still have their doubts!

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¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

You might have your doubts but remember this, all authority in heaven and earth is Jesus. All authority. All power comes from me and me alone, Jesus says. You may not know what is ahead, that's ok because I am in control. You may not understand everything that has happened to you in the past, that's OK because I am in control. And right now, life is a blur, that's OK I am in control. For all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus.

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And so, because of this sort of power, Jesus presents us with his plan for the world, his plan for the church, his plan for you and me. And it is not a suggestion, if we have the time, it is a command. Make disciples. You see there is only one imperative in this sentence and that is “Make Disciples” and there are three participials, “go”, “baptise” and “teach.”

We make disciples by going and baptising and teaching. We go, or maybe better as we go. As we go along life's ups and down, as we go to all the places that God will call us to go, as we go, we are making disciples. Making disciples is not the job of the minister and elders and the keen beans but it is all of our jobs. And we make disciples by not just getting someone to pray a prayer, or come to Church but be baptised. To identify so much with Christ that they are willing to be sprinkled with his grace, plunge themselves deep into the work of God so that he will move them from death to life. And we will do that as a public profession before our friends, family and community. And we make disciples by teaching. Teaching everything that Jesus has commanded us. Not just the good bits, the easy bits but every bit.

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You see once a person has become a disciple and been disciplined their task is to make disciples. But I wonder if that is part of the problem, so few of us have been disciplined. So, few of us have had others come beside us & invest themselves in our lives and teach us and pray for us and back us up in the faith that we don't know how to do that to someone else.

Mums used to be really good at that, now they have less time to do so. Dads used to be the moral leaders now they find themselves struggling with life's demands let alone finding the time to disciple someone else. Churches used to be smaller and ministers and elders knew everyone now we prefer bigger Churches where we can be part of the crowd and not allow others to get too close to us.

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Go and make disciples is not a comfortable call to take life easy. It is about having a missionary faith. It's about seeing the gospel go to the end of our family, the ends of the street, the ends of our community, even the ends of the earth. And we do what Jesus has done to us. As we have read through Matthew, he has disciples us. He has come to us. He has baptised us and he is teaching us. Because he wants us to become like him. Friends the end goal is not for you to become a disciple but for us to become disciple making disciples.

So, what will help us to do this? Knowing that in Jesus is all power. Realising that he has a plan for our lives and that he promises his presences wherever we go. “And surely I will be with you until the ends of the earth.” You're not on your own here. Not only will Jesus be with us, but he will work in us and through us. If he had remained on earth, he would have been in one place at any one time. But now he can be with all his people all of the time.

Can you see that? Do you believe that? Will go and tell? Will you go and make disciples? It's not an easy task. But it is our task. It is not a comfortable existence but it is a way of life that will be filled with his

comfort. Jesus followed the father's will in order to bring you to himself. Will you follow the son's will to point people to Jesus, the source of all hope, the source of all life, the source of all meaning.

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There's a movie that came out in 2016, a true story called "Their finest hours" and it's about when a hurricane hit the north coast of the USA and not one but two tankers got caught in it and were going under. Now the coast guard got their main boat and went out to rescue the first tanker. But when they heard about the second tanker all they had was a small vessel that was going to be manned by just four crew.

And so, the captain of the boat was looking for three volunteers to go out in a hurricane to rescue any survivors and as you can imagine he was struggling to find his three volunteers. And he says to the other coast guard guys, "*they say you got to go out but they don't say you have to come back.*" Our job is to out and rescue, it's not to come back and live.

Slide 21

In a way that is what Jesus is saying to us today. Our coast guard captain Jesus went out but he didn't come back. But he rescued us and he disciplined us. And today he is saying to us. Come and see. Go and tell. Go and make disciples. Our job then is to go out for him. We don't know where that will lead us but his power will go with us, his plan is before us and his presence will be completely with us. We don't even know whether we will come back. But despite our doubts, despite our fears we are called to be Jesus disciples.

Will we come today & see the empty grave? Will we go & tell the good news? Will we go & make disciples of all nations? All because today you believed, really believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Song – Oh, What a day [Oh, What a Day - Lyrics Video \[Risen\] on Vimeo](#)

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| <p>1. Let the joy begin, let our songs ring out
Let our hearts be glad—love has banished doubt
See the empty cross—all our debts are gone
Only grace remains, for the victory's won</p> | <p>2. See the empty tomb, see the grave clothes there
He has left this place; you won't find Him here
All our fears have fled, let our hopes arise
Heaven waits for us—we will never die</p> |
|---|--|

Chorus: Oh, what a day, what a glorious day
Oh what a day, what a glorious day
When You conquered death
And rose up from the grave
What a day What a day

Chorus
Bridge: There is still a day that we're awaiting
When the glorious One we love appears
He will take us home with Him forever
He will finally wipe away our tears

Benediction

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ & teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
(Matthew 28:18-20)