

Easter Sunday 12.4.2020.

The Lord is risen – He is risen indeed!

This is the cry for Easter Sunday which has echoed down the centuries, a simple exclamation encompassing all the awe and wonder, the praise and thanksgiving, the excitement and promise of the amazing truth experienced by the first disciples - as the empty tomb is visited, and as Mary recounts her meeting with Jesus, the “gardener”. The experience then repeated in the upper room where they were all huddled in fear, on the road to Emmaus as they walked together, on the beach for a fish barbeque.

Jesus death no longer a tragedy, but a triumph of good over evil, of truth over lies, and of love, God’s love, over death – “the wages of sin” no longer our debt or our destiny.

This Easter we cannot celebrate as usual, in churches and chapels across the world, we are “in isolation” but only in space – we are, we can be, together as we meditate on our Saviour together, as we pray for one another and the world, and as we give thanks, immeasurable thanks, for God’s grace in showing us himself in His Son, Jesus Christ.

There are many, many opportunities across the internet to join with others in worshipping and this is what we need to do this year. There are links to local churches below, but you may have found others, which, in the wonderful world of the web, could be in Argyll, or could be on the other side of the world. Take your pick, and hear God’s word from the source that suits you best today.

Earlier this week Chris Tabraham sent in this short article on the controversy of the dates for Easter:

Iona versus Rome!

An Easter Controversy.

“Do you know how we set the date for Easter? I certainly don’t, and it seems no-one could agree from the very outset in the 1st century. Indeed the earliest Christians, adhering to the Jewish Calendar, had Easter as the day of Christ’s crucifixion, rather than His resurrection, as set down by St John the Apostle.

Finally, at a great synod in Nicea (now Iznik in Turkey) in AD 325, the early Christian Church all agreed that Easter should celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection, and moreover that it should always fall on a Sunday! The Church of Rome, opted to break with the Jewish Calendar, in favour of their new Julian one. But the Eastern Church wouldn’t budge. Neither would our very own St Columba and the monks of Iona, and so the rest of Britain and Ireland stayed faithful to the original tradition.

That is, until the Roman missionaries arrived in Kent within 10 years of Columba’s death in AD 597. Fifty years later, at another Synod, held at Whitby, Yorkshire, when it came to a vote, Rome beat Iona, albeit by a slim majority, and the matter

was finally settled. And we here in North Knapdale have followed the Roman tradition ever since.

But the “Easter Controversy” still won’t go away. Despite recent attempts by various Churches to fix the date of Easter – to fit in with our increasingly secular” world apparently – it’s still a moveable feast. And that’s why the Eastern Church will be celebrating Easter Day a week later – on 19th April!”

Well, if we like we could join with the Eastern Church next week again, and find some of their services on line!

What I find most sad about the debate however, is how early in the life of the church we took the central and most amazing action by God – the resurrection of the Son of God – and managed to make it a subject for disagreement and division.

What does Jesus think about our debates and discussions? Maybe our being pushed into searching for ways of coming together “on line” will actually bring us unity as Christians rather than being divided by traditions and practices.

These e-mails to the congregation of North Knapdale are an attempt to bring us together, and also to bring new ways of communication and worship. For many, e-mails are a very old fashioned way to communicate now, and it is - the church website is much more efficient in keeping everyone informed and bring news from all over – please have a look.

To add to this we have now also launched a North Knapdale Church Face Book page - which today has pictures of Easter Sunday in North Knapdale from past years.

Happy Easter!

David

West Kintyre and Gigha – Rev Scott Burton -<https://www.westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org/> Worship

The United Church of Bute – Rev Owain Jones - <https://www.unitedchurchofbute.org.uk/>

The Shore Kirk – Rev Janet MacKellar –
<https://sites.google.com/view/theshorekirk/home>
or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/345399762209092/>
Ardchattan lw Coll lw Connel – Rev Willem Bezuidenhout <https://www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk/>
West Cowal – Rev David Mitchell
<https://www.westcowalchurches.org.uk>
South Kintyre – Rev Steve Fulcher
www.kintyreparishes.org.uk
Netherlorn Churches Worship Team
<http://www.netherlornchurches.org.uk/>