



5th April 2026 | Resurrection Sunday

*He is risen!
He is risen indeed.*

What God Has Done For Me

Happy Easter Day, one and all; how wonderful to be here this morning to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, our king, saviour and friend, this is possibly the most important day in our church calendar, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Easter day marks the foundation of Christian Faith, and the triumph of life over death sin and despair, and to offer eternal life and hope. It also signifies spiritual rebirth, transformation, and the triumph of divine love over fear. For Christians it is the cornerstone of our faith, representing a new covenant and the promise of renewal.

We give thanks as we acknowledge this great gift of love, God is love and He sent his only Son to reconcile us to God and take away our sins.

How many songs do we know about love; All you need is Love, Love makes the World go round... just call them out

I was thinking as I began to prepare this sermon, how will I begin, how can I describe the enormity of this event. Then I realised that I have no words to fully describe this incredible story. The best I can do is focus on the love that the Father has for us, God is love! And we are showered with this love, through the grace of God, whether we deserve it or not, we are loved unconditionally, God loved us first.

This divine love and sacrifice highlights God's love, with Jesus as the sacrificial lamb who paid the debt of sin for humanity. It provides a way for humanity to have a close, personal relationship with God, finding comfort and peace.

Easter is closely tied to the Jewish Passover, representing liberation and transition from darkness to light. In fact Jesus' death on Good Friday aligns with the Jewish Passover tradition, Jesus was crucified at the same time that the Passover lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple, marking Him as the ultimate "Lamb of God".

This convergence fulfills the symbolic role of the sacrificial lamb that takes away the sins of the world. I didn't know this until recently.

There are no coincidences in God's way. Everything has its place in his grand plan, even you and I!! Out of chaos comes order.

This led me to think about the account of Jesus' resurrection in all of the four Gospels, there were four differing reports, but only one reality. In an article written by Tim Chaffey way back in 2015, he puts all the pieces together and the wonder of the resurrection shines out in even greater glory.

Tim explains the variation in the names and times that the women arrived at the tomb, Matthew states that "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary" came to the tomb as it "began to dawn". Mark adds Salome to the group and claims that they came "very early in the morning". Luke agrees that it was "very early in the morning" and names "Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women" as those who came to the tomb. John wrote that "Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early while it was still dark".

One plausible solution is that in the phrases used in the various Gospels indicate, that the women came early in the morning, much of the sky is still dark as the day is dawning, very early in the morning. John may have described when the women actually left for the tomb, while the other Gospels described when the women arrived at the tomb, the women also had to travel to the tomb and this could account for the sun having risen already.

We often find differing versions of biblical stories, however they are all connected and they do provide us with a complete picture. As we explore each story and examine the culture and context surrounding each one, there is always a constant theme.

In our scripture readings we are always given a message from God, no matter how difficult it is to understand the passage, we are given an example to follow or indeed not to follow, a lesson, a path that our Lord sets out for us through a journey of faith, thankfulness, love, peace and trust.

And the greatest of these is love.

God's love for us is unconditional, everlasting, and sacrificial, grounded in his grace rather than human merit. It is demonstrated by creating humans in his image, providing for all creation, and most profoundly through the sacrifice of Jesus in order to offer forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life.

God's love for us is unconditional and personal, that is, not based on human performance but on God's character. It is personal and corporate, intimate and available to all. His love is also sacrificial, demonstrated by Jesus dying for humanity to pay the penalty for sin.

His love is everlasting and faithful, a steadfast, permanent love that does not fade. God's love is redemptive, it transforms, heals wounded hearts, and changes believers from slaves to sin into children of God.

Jesus, the good shepherd cares for individuals like a true shepherd, the old fashioned shepherd, his sheep know and respond to his voice. He gathers the lambs into his arms. We are protected and gathered together as people of God.

God delights in us, he rejoices over his people and takes great pleasure in us, as we pray to him, sing to him and worship him, He is our constant companion on our journey, bringing us peace and hope, in both good times and difficult times. We always have this assurance of His peace. His love and His presence with us.

God blesses us with forgiveness and mercy, God is described as patient, kind and slow to anger. Not at all like our secular world, I think that we sometimes have difficulty understanding and fully accepting these gifts from our Lord.

And most amazingly, God's love positions people as His children and heirs, we are adopted by Him into the Holy Family of God's chosen people. This love is to be received eagerly, providing security, freedom and the motivation to love others in return.

From our perspective, maybe we sometimes feel that this love is difficult to accept, it resembles in many ways the love that we have for our children or a close relative. It doesn't matter what they do, we still love them, we may not like what that have done in a particular situation, but they are still loved unconditionally.

So as we come together this morning, the trial of Jesus' passion behind us, we have travelled through our Lenten journey with Jesus; a time of reflection, a time for new growth, and a time for drawing closer to God. As we gather now with a renewed sense of oneness with God and our fellow travellers, we continue to love and support each another with real joy, peace and the love of Jesus in our hearts.

Amen.