

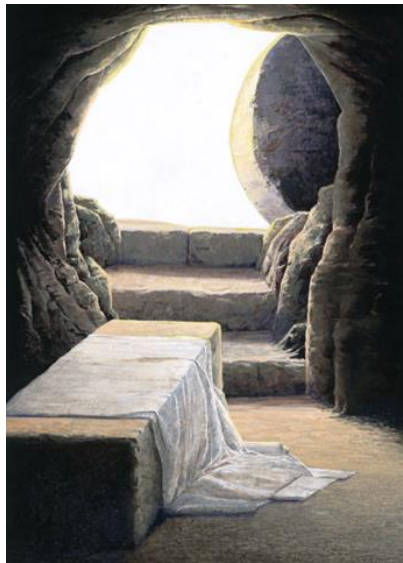


ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

THIS SUNDAY April 12 & BEYOND

The Resurrected Life



Easter is just around the corner and, to the retail industry's misfortune, this year the Easter eggs, the bunnies, and other ornaments related to the Season will not be sold as profusely as usual.

But what is Easter really about?

Christians, I can hear you all saying, "Oh, come on, we know perfectly well it is about Resurrection." So true. But what is this resurrected life all about?

With the advance of medicine, nowadays there are many people in the world that can undergo a "Lazarus-like" experience. People can be clinically dead for some minutes and then brought back to life. We are all familiar with the stories they tell about what they have seen and felt on the other side. And it is a fact that, for many of these people, such an experience brings about a significant change of attitude in their lives. They value their lives much more than before, and they come to realize what the real meaning of life is. Most of them have become better persons, so to

speak. But Resurrection, in the Christian understanding, is much more than resuscitation.

Let us then, imagine, for a moment, that all of a sudden we are all, those living and those who are dead, transformed into the bodies we had--without any defects, of course-- when we were, let us say, 25 years old. (There is a problem here, though, what about those who died as young children or before that age?) Let us imagine that these bodies are made up of incorruptible matter and they will not decay. No more sickness. No more death. Perfect climate and natural conditions for everyone. Perfect harmony with all other creatures and with one another. No more harm done to any creature.

This is an approximate image of what for centuries many Christians have thought of as the resurrected life in Christ. But there is a problem here. How can perfect harmony with our Creator, with one another and with creation be achieved? Can it be forced down on us? Can our minds be forced to have only loving thoughts, harmonious thoughts? Maybe. However, that would make us automatons, not the free creatures that God created. Is that the resurrected life we aspire to have? I hardly think so

So we have to admit that, unless we undergo a totally free and responsible inner transformation, Christ's resurrection will be nothing to us but a beautiful story to be admired and told over and over again. But Christ did not die on the cross and rise so that we would admire Him. He did so in order to open the way of the resurrected life to us. A full and wonderful life that is not dependent on outer circumstances, no matter how critical they may be, but on our inner communion with Him, with one other, with the whole of creation.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit in us. There is no pretending we can do the work by ourselves. But we have been created free, so it is our prerogative to allow the Spirit to fill us up with His transforming power and bring us to the resurrected life that God has always intended for us to have.

Happy Easter indeed!

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Sunday of the Resurrection – Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:14-17, 22-24 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Sunday of the Resurrection – Easter Day

All Saints' Sunday 9am Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/282264110>

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY Noon Service

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/680613536>

FRIDAY Formation Study at noon

Time: Apr 17, 2020 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/857993476>

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY The Second Sunday of Easter

All Saints' Sunday 9am Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/282264110>

Meeting ID: 282 264 110

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

NOTE: To activate Zoom you need to click on the link and zoom will download and put you in the meeting. If you have a camera and microphone they can interact in the meeting. The meeting is setup to not auto turn on your camera. You will need to make that decision. Otherwise it will be like last Sunday's Facebook video and you can listen and watch.