

SCARBOROUGH BULLETIN

What is happening at Scarborough Baptist Church?

Easter Sunday - a reminder of God's love for us

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Recognising our Saviour

EASTER: Questions or answers?



Christ, the Lord, is risen today!

On this Easter weekend - greetings to everyone!

Isn't it a joy to know that Jesus loved the world, died on the cross and rose again, defeating death once and for all. And now we all have the opportunity to become his children, to follow him and gain access to eternal life.

Think of the many Easters that have passed since that crucifixion day - Easters during the Crusades, the Pandemic of the Spanish Flu, during World Wars. Easters during times of peace and joy too.

The truth of Easter is timeless and is not dependent on what's happening in the world. This year, once again, let's focus our thoughts on the Lord, Jesus Christ and his resurrection from death.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

No Bible Studies, Mainly Music or Craft Group this week due to the school holidays.

Brighton Kids will be running full speed this week.

Sundays@6 as usual tonight and next Sunday evening - dinner 6pm at the church

Offering: Please use the donation box on the desk at the back of the church if you would like to give something to the work of Scarborough Baptist Church. You could also arrange electronic bank transfers if that is easier for you:)

Our bank details:

Scarborough Baptist Church -

BSB 306-054 Account number 4186613



Easter is a time so full of questions.

First, there are the questions the women and the disciples had:

- Who rolled the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?
- When did this happen?
- Where was Jesus?
- What did this mean for their movement as followers of Jesus Christ?

Then there are questions believers still ask when they reflect on the resurrection of Jesus:

- What is the difference between Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection of Lazarus?
- Wasn't it enough that Jesus died for us on the cross? Why did he have to come back to life?
- Do we have to believe in a physical resurrection? Is it not enough to think that Jesus rose from the dead spiritually?
- What are the implications of Jesus' resurrection from the dead with a physical body for us today?
- How would the gospel be different if Jesus did not rise from the dead?

There are also questions which non-believers ask:

- How is a resurrection even possible? The Biblical description of the crucifixion makes it very clear that Jesus had certainly died... How do dead people come back to life?
- Did the disciples not invent the idea of Jesus' resurrection to continue a movement from which they would benefit by gaining money or prestige?
- Are there not other, more plausible explanations?
- Did Jesus perhaps come to in the cool of the tomb and then make his escape?
- Why are there different versions of Jesus' resurrection in the various gospels? Does this not prove that it cannot be true historically?



Punishment: thoughts going through my mind...

I certainly deserved it.
My life had been rough on others and myself.
I could blame my parents,
look at money problems,
hereditary factors that I had no say in
that made me who I was -
but I knew this deep down dwindling of excuses held no value:

I was being punished justly.

I looked across once more to Him
that face contorted in merciless pain,
The one who had done nothing wrong
Sinless, perfect... King?

My own lungs stretched to bursting
snatches of air wheezing through parched lips
I said,
Remember me when you come into your kingdom

Sickening taste in the corners of my mouth
tears mingled
with sweat
and blood-trickles

I heard him answer me, words faint but clear
I promise that today you will be with me in Paradise.

Childhood memories at the temple with my father

Words that hung in the air between us:
Bruised for our transgressions...
The iniquities of the world on his shoulders

My Messiah had come.



So many questions: Some we can answer easily. Others we need to think deeply about. Some of the questions already carry seeds of radical doubt. These do not necessarily only belong to the realm of those who oppose Christ and the Christian message. "Unless I touch his scars with my fingers" the disciple Thomas exclaimed, "I cannot believe." That is true for many people. The theologian Kuitert said that many people today find it impossible to believe, however hard they try. Modern science has rendered the gospel message including the resurrection simply implausible. One would not even know how to go about thinking that it may be true.

In response to Thomas' doubts, Jesus appeared to him. "Touch me." he said. Most doubters would say, "If that happened to me, I too would believe! Jesus said to Thomas, "Do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"

It is true that Jesus himself does not appear to us physically today. And yet, his Spirit has come to dwell in believers. He transforms their lives and makes them new. And then he brings these new people to the doubters and says: "Touch me!"

1 Corinthians 15:20 - 28

20 But Christ has been raised to life! And he makes us certain that others will also be raised to life. 21 Just as we will die because of Adam, we will be raised to life because of Christ. 22 Adam brought death to all of us, and Christ will bring life to all of us. 23 But we must each wait our turn. Christ was the first to be raised to life, and his people will be raised to life when he returns. 24 Then after Christ has destroyed all powers and forces, the end will come, and he will give the kingdom to God the Father.

25 Christ will rule until he puts all his enemies under his power, 26 and the last enemy he destroys will be death. 27 When the Scriptures say that he will put everything under his power, they don't include God. It was God who put everything under the power of Christ. 28 After everything is under the power of God's Son, he will put himself under the power of God, who put everything under his Son's power. Then God will mean everything to everyone.