

## Sermon for Easter service of light – Bygrave 16.4.22- All Age

Lord God help us continue learn from the whole story of the bible and your love for creation.  
Amen

In this service we follow God's journey of love for all his creation - look at the large heart here to represent God , because Christians believe God IS love - here surrounding all his creation on earth.

**What is the symbol for Jesus?** A cross - look- here is the cross for Jesus , he was there at the beginning with God. Jesus came to earth being born of a woman so that he was fully human and fully divine too.

We started in darkness today in the service, remembering Jesus being put to death on a cross, but now have lit the new flame , Jesus is risen , Jesus has shown power over death and sin, Jesus can bring us new life and hope



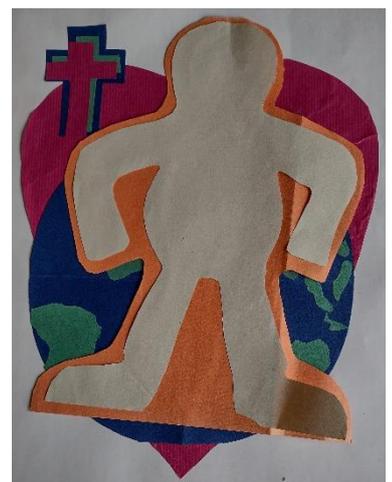
In our first reading we heard one of the creation stories- all the wonderful parts of God's creation working in harmony and fulfilling their own roles as God intended



*(children blutak pictures on world: fish, flowers, sea, mountains, animals, birds and God made humans in his own image on the same day as the other land animals entrusting us to steward and care for creation as God does, so let's put humankind in the midst of the rest of creation but not standing above it- we have been given the responsibility to care for creation , not just taking what we want, not thinking it's all been made purely for our own benefit....*

Then we heard in the second reading about the Israelites, the core group of people God chose to follow his ways . He chose Moses and we heard how they fled from being slaves in Egypt , do you remember where they got to? The sea – how were they going to get across? A boat maybe , but no God helped Moses command the sea to draw back so there was a pathway through and the Israelite were safe but then God made the sea go back and the Egyptians were covered by the sea , so the Israelites escaped and eventually got to the promised land (which had been first promised to their ancestor Abraham) chosen to be the people to spread God's message of love to others. But unfortunately they kept turning their backs on God, thinking they knew best how to live their lives and the link with God was broken but God's love was so strong, he didn't abandon his creation - **look the heart is always there and drew them back to himself time and again.**

Then in our third reading the prophet said that Jesus would come to save us and all creation. God didn't give up on humans - he did the most amazing thing - he sent Jesus to show us how to live and how to repair our broken relationship with God once and for all by taking our sins upon himself and dying an innocent person for us.



*Do you think we are better than the Israelites who kept turning away from God?*

Well we may be and that's because we've got Jesus to help us – they didn't have Jesus. But we all do things that aren't so good, but if we ask God to forgive us , he always will.

Now I'd like you children to peg some other pictures on this string and hold it over the wonderful creation pictures you have stuck on to the earth picture, to show how we humans are messing up the world. What have you got?"Get off gas"- yes we are making climate change worse by using fossil fuels , we need to change to renewables.

What have you got ? PS 5 – oh yes lots of the latest games and technology

Think about sin- turning away from God, - thinking we can sort everything on our own or putting our interests first- , striving for power and money, a comfortable life, lots of holidays, nice food, nice clothes , the latest phone.

Who watched the David Attenborough documentary about the day the asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs? - I was transfixed - a lot of dinosaurs were hit, some died from the great tsunami that followed but rest from starvation because of the darkness for 10 years that stopped enough plant life growing to feed the enormous creatures.

**But not all was destroyed** - green shoots from seeds did then begin to germinate and life returned and developed, creation was renewed , the whole of creation was not destroyed.

**Surely the climate crisis is today's asteroid** - speeding towards us to make great parts of the world uninhabitable , wiping out thousands of species and people , some have been lost already through war, famine, huge temperature rises, melting ice caps leading to sea level rises, already devastating some of the poorest areas in the world. We humans are living beyond the earth's resources, Darkness and gloom.



But today out of the darkness, in the second part of this service and in the Easter services tomorrow Christians have a wonderful , awe inspiring hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ- who conquered death and sin, was raised from the dead and brings new life, new beginnings and salvation to **all** creation.

**Look I brought this palm cross with me from Palm Sunday last week, so let's put the cross of Christ firmly over the whole earth,**

not the giant figure of a human being - let's put ourselves back into the place amidst all creation, protecting it, restoring it ,putting it back into a fairer balance by letting the love and peace of God rule in our hearts and minds , let the joy of the Easter message empower us to open our eyes to the desperate needs of the world around us and act out our Christian faith.

Alleluia - Christ is risen!

*He is risen indeed - alleluia*

Amen

Katrina Nice 16.4.22