

'Then came the morning'

(If you have internet google Guy Penrod and the song 'then came the morning')

Before Easter is always busy, reflecting, organising and delivering events and services. Much of it is the same as previous years as there is a spiritual safety/growth in that regular pattern. Often after that we flop or get ill. Those who follow the Christian year will know that the season of Easter is until Pentecost and often churches will go through the appearances of Jesus and their meaning. So, this morning I want us to make sure we realise the enormity of Easter and as the song reminds us then came the morning, so what does that mean for you and me today. (Especially for those of us who have as people of faith celebrated so many Easter Sundays). Are we still excited, - because of Easter morning?

1. Where do we find the image of morning/dawn breaking in the Bible? Refer to joint reading, the story of creation. An image of light, newness and hope. Reflect on any dawn we have seen or is it on our bucket list – dawn over a mountain range, a coastal view, from a ship, images we have seen, etc.,
2. The new morning in the Easter story. Remember the events of Easter week, last weeks' message. The depth of darkness that happened, not only on earth but in heaven. Write down all that we know, heard about the cross. The Son and the Father separated until the dawn of the morning, is this something we can comprehend. The amazing contrast between Good Friday and Easter morning. The victory over death as the dawn drives away the darkness.
3. As we were reminded last week, we all need to have that personal faith in the risen Christ. We all need to realise what 'then came the morning, means for our personal salvation. Also, on our pilgrimage there are times when the road is difficult and we need the hope of Easter and of a new morning. Longing for a new morning after Covid, after a period of mourning a death/loss, a difficult church time or work. God never ever promises to take us out of situations but does walk with us and is our guiding light. Prayer at funeral that 'our grief does not overwhelm us'.

Conclusion

Familiar with the Easter story and many sermons/messages on it, but back to that question does it still stir our inner being, are we still excited about 'then came the morning?' This week find time to take a break and prayer, think about that first Easter morning and let God into your imagination. We will break bread in a few moments and in that breaking we remember, we look back to the cross, in that drinking we recall the shedding of blood for our salvation and we rejoice in the grace, the love the justice of our God. Amen