

MINISTER'S LETTER

Hi folk of the OUC community

I am afraid you have got me for the 'Minister's letter this month.

So, what I am going to do is ask you to think a bit about what Easter means for you. As John Lamont said a couple of weeks ago, we are still in the season of Easter. So I am suggesting that you have a crack at writing your own **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**. The background is that I wrote and shared an affirmation of faith (sometimes we call them creeds) worship. It appears below and I spent a fair bit of time putting it together. But I am not asking you to write a masterpiece (Mine isn't, I assure you!). Just have a crack at writing down what you believe about Easter and the Christian faith that you feel comfortable with. Here's mine:

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In the beginning God was.

God was love! Pure love!

With that love, God the Father created all life, and it was good.

*But humans broke the bond of love with their divine Father,
and authentic human life in relationship with their Maker was
irreparably corrupted.*

*To fix the broken, God took on the nature of human flesh, in the form
of his Son.*

The Son, Jesus, lived in perfect loving relationship with his Father.

But through no fault of his own, Jesus failed.

*Instead of his message of love being taken up by his brothers and
sisters on earth and this love conquering all, his way and message of
love was rejected by humankind.*

He was murdered.

He died because his living out of the central truth about God's love was an affront to humanity's self-centredness and power.

He was brutally, hatefully and unjustly slaughtered.

His Father responded to this appallingly unjust atrocity.

Not with horrendous divine, lethal and vengeful judgement on humanity, NO!

Rather, God rose above his anger and grief, at the loss of his beloved, and responded with pure love.

God gifted new life to his Son – the life he deserved.

And with the triumph of that Resurrection, came the most astonishing miracle of all:

God granted new life to us all, to the whole of creation!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

All praise be to God; the Father, the Son and the Spirit, One God, in love, forever!

Weekly, daily, no hourly, we live and breathe the truth that Jesus, the Son of Man, dwelt here, on earth, truly 100% human, teaching us about the nature and being of God, his Father, which is pure love. He died for us, rose anew for us, defeated death and granted new life to all.

So,....

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all

creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (From Romans 8)

Now there is one more step I would like you to take.

If you feel comfortable doing so, share your Affirmation of Faith with a friend - with someone who you trust - Perhaps they also may feel comfortable to write and share one of their own with you. One further recommendation, why not share your 'creed' over a cup of coffee at Mr Burch (our local fantastic coffee shop) or a coffee shop of your own choosing - just a suggestion!

Lots of love

Ron (Townsend)