



St Luke’s Anglican Church Emerald

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Whatever your views about miracles, everyone must grapple with an extraordinary “life from the dead” occurrence in the first century. No one who had seen Jesus’s followers on the day after his death—dejected, scared, leaderless, hiding from authorities—would have expected their movement to shape history in the way it has. Something was unleashed on the world 20 centuries ago such that, from an ignominious death, life has burst out.

The resurrection is not a miracle that adds to the absurdity of our world. Rather it explains what would otherwise be even more absurd. To embrace the miracle is to make sense of life. Resurrection explains why Christianity didn’t die when Jesus died. Resurrection explains why Christianity continued its unlikely growth through many deadly trials. Resurrection explains why the Victim has come to be Victor. Resurrection explains why, far from being a tragedy, the cross has represented healing and hope. Resurrection explains why the pattern of all great stories—and the pattern of the meaningful life—is triumph *through* sacrifice. Most of all, resurrection explains Jesus. It explains why the one famous for his death has been encountered by billions as the one most fully alive.

Everyone is confronted with an absurdly improbable event: Christianity rose to life to have dominion over the world. Christians say, “We have an explanation: Christianity rose to life because Christ rose to life.” And if you start leaning toward the Jesus explanation, then you can embrace the most wonderful truths:

- that the world is loved, and loved to death;
- that such love is the very essence of who God is;
- that behind the history you witness, is a History-Maker who can be trusted;
- that above the values you prize, is a person who embodies them;
- that beneath the values you violate, is the mercy to forgive you;
- that beyond the death you must die, is the life he has pioneered: resurrection.

Unquestionably these are extraordinary ideas to embrace. But then, all ordinary ideas are off the table. We live in an utterly extraordinary world. We are the heirs of a wholly improbable history. It’s a case of “choose your miracle.”

Collect

Almighty God, through your only begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life – we humbly ask you that as by your special grace going before us, you put in our minds good desires, so that by your continual help, we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, world without end. **Amen**

He has risen. He is not here [Mark 16:6]

Easter Sunday

31st March

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Acts 10:34-43

Mark 16:1-8

Easter 2

7th April

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

Choose Your Miracle

Glen Schrivener - TGC, March 1, 2022.

The gospels are an account of the life and times of the greatest figure in human history—God but also man, sinless but fully alive, pure but with profound depths, the Judge of the world but with bottomless compassion, the fulfillment of all Jewish hopes but with a global appeal, a man in time but a man for all times. A Hero with heart-melting kindness yet steely determination, who blasts the self-righteous and befriends sinners. His ethical teaching is sublime—the kind that builds civilizations. His miracles are extraordinary—the kind that would have been noticed (and could therefore be contradicted) by the generation to which the gospels were written. His life and words are impeccably righteous, yet nonetheless he is condemned as a blasphemer. And what is written of him stands up to scrutiny: scriptural, theological, geographic, linguistic, literary, and historical. And the gospels are believable both near and far, now and later, for those who’ve lived through these times and for all generations to come.

Is it any wonder that Jordan Peterson finds it so difficult to believe that “human beings invented this unbelievably preposterous story.” It is, in his words, an “impossible” task. When you read the Gospels for yourself, you begin to ask, “Which genius comes up with this?” There is genius here. There is enough genius in the Jesus story to remake the world. But we need to ask: does the genius reside in the authors, or have the authors basically reported the genius of their Hero, Jesus? Both options are somewhat “miraculous,” but one of them involves a Miracle Maker who can explain the feat.

A guide for our prayers during the week

Monday

Our diocese and the gospel

- Bishop Peter
- Other parishes
- Dean for Cathedral – Rev. Ross Nicholson

Tuesday

Our church and the gospel

- Children and youth
- Families
- Seniors
- BCA

Wednesday

Our community and the gospel

- St Luke's Shop
- Blackwater
- Emerald Churches

Thursday

Our nation and the gospel

- Prime minister
- State and local government
- Religious Freedom legislation

Friday

God's world and the gospel

- Islamisation
- War and poverty
- Persecuted Church
- CMS and ABM

Saturday

Ministry and the gospel

- Bible Studies
- Food for Body and Soul
- Wardens and Parish Council
- Rev Daniel and Jenni

Dates to Remember

6 April	St Luke's shop reopens
9 April	Parish Council meet
13 April	St Luke's shop overflow sale
20 April	St Luke's working bee
28 April	BCA visit – Mike Uptin
25 May	Lay preacher training - Springsure

The BCA Prayer

Lord our God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land. We ask you to strengthen and encourage all whose ministries are supported by The Bush Church Aid Society.

Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness and call others to stand with them in the task of making Christ known.

Grant that, through the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, through caring service and by support for young people, the message of your redeeming love may be proclaimed and accepted by the people of our land. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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