

Some Reflections for Easter Day

How the light gets in

A few years ago, when we celebrated Easter in the midst of a very difficult time for our family, I was helped by some words from one of my favourite songwriters, Leonard Cohen, in the chorus of a song called 'Anthem':

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, there is a crack, in everything
That's how the light gets in

These words suggest that it is not in the easy or successful parts of our lives (when we're tempted to believe that we can be perfect) that we learn the most valuable lessons, but in the parts of our lives when we are troubled, tested, and broken. Where we are broken, there is a crack, and that is where the light can get in.

At Easter we celebrate the wonderful and mysterious truth that the way to new and eternal life is the way through suffering and death, and that what appeared to be the shattering defeat of God's purposes on the cross was in fact the way to the fulfilling of all those purposes in the resurrection.

This year we find ourselves celebrating Easter in circumstances that none of us could have foreseen, even a few months ago. But we should still celebrate, even now, because the promise of Easter is that God is always ready to work with us, to bring good out of the hurts and troubles of our lives and our world, and to make the cracks of our brokenness into the places where his love can shine through.

And we can hold to the promise that we hear each Christmas at our carol services, as we read from the opening verses of John's gospel:

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Revd John Waller

An Easter Blessing (based on Hebrews 13. 20-21)

Now may the God of peace
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
equip you with everything good to do his will,
and may he work in us what is pleasing to him,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.