

Holy Saturday
Saturday, 3rd April 2021



Dear Friends,

'The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.'
(John 1: 9)

After the events of Good Friday, we are forced to confront a destitute world without Jesus. The sky is dark, the land rent asunder. All hope is lost.

And yet, even on this bleak Sabbath day, as we try to dwell with the disciples huddled in an upper room, barely breathing in their grief and fearful of being caught and executed because of their association with the radical Christ, and knowing how their own denial of their friend has led to His death, we cannot help but glimpse the flickering fire of God's love.

For we Christians have the benefit of hindsight, and know from gospel accounts how, as new fire flourishes from the friction of flints, so the risen life of Christ springs up from the rock of Golgotha. John's prologue tells us how the true light has not been overcome by the darkness of sin and death. Instead it burns with the fire of God's love and seeks to kindle in our hearts an answering love.

As the pillar of fire led the Israelites out of slavery towards the Promised Land, so the Easter Candle, is lit from new fire symbolising the presence of the risen Christ with His people, as He leads us away from the bondage of sin towards the glory of heaven.

Yours, in the reconciling light of Christ,

Jax

Revd Jax Machin, Rector, The Downs Benefice

The New Fire

O Lord, our God, Father Almighty,
Light unfailing and Creator of all light,
Hear us your servants and bless this fire,
So that it may be hallowed by Your holy benediction,
For You enlighten everyone who comes into this world.

Enlighten our hearts and consciences with the fire of Your love.
May Your fire enkindle us,
And Your light shine upon us.
Drive from our hearts the darkness of sin,
And lead us by Your radiance into Your eternal life.

From Domine Deus, the Blessing of the New Fire in the Sarum Missal, p. 115.



'I am the Resurrection' by Mike Moyers

John 1: 1-14 – The Light of the World Is Coming

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.