

Here comes the Sun!

Summer's arrived and doesn't it feel great! It's all that we hoped it would be and more – and so much more than what we hoped when we were looking forward to this time back in cold, dark, wet November. Well not quite. Perhaps you long for how life was back in cold, dark, wet November.

It's certainly been a Spring with a difference and Summer sure look like it's going to be unusual as well.

The so called 'lockdown' is being increasingly loosened. What looks possible now is opening up over the coming weeks- over the special summer holiday weeks.

Perhaps for many this is a much more cheering time by how much better things may be. Not for all though - for some with changes comes a time of anxiety. One person's 'freedom' is perhaps the cause of anxiety for someone else.

I really don't know how it's all going to go over the weeks to come but I do hope you get a sense of summer difference - a rest and space, something of a holiday feel (even if it will be very different than what you may have originally planned).

I want to us to look at one verse – in the first book of the Bible, Genesis Chapter 1 - talking about the living God who made all things. Here's what it says:

'And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day'.(Gen 1:3)

See what it says. These words can be read too quickly especially if you read the whole chapter and just read it as saying 'a day'. Here it is again:

'And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day'.(Gen 1:3)

That's not how so many people describe a day. For so many us- the day ends with the night, the day ends with evening not morning - but here the day ends with the morning, with the light; every day mentioned in Genesis 1 has that rhythm.

The creation's rhythms are a picture, the rhythms of night ending with day are a big theological statement about the direction of travel our God is into. The light will win. Night will not have the final say. The dawn will come - and when we feel life is hard and difficult - and sometimes problems can feel worse at night-time we need to know the dawn always comes.

As the sun 'rises' and banishes the darkness, it is a picture of how spiritually Jesus who is the creator of all things for the Father is called The Light of the World and will banish 'night' fully and finally one day. Look through scriptures - the end goal is happy ever after.

When I read a novel, I don't want to know the end - I like the suspense. There is someone I know who loves to know the end - and will sometime peek at the final page to see how it

goes. Well God is into spoilers. *He has told us it will end well.* The Christian faith is not one of suspense.

Winter will never have the final say. We are to be in our heart a spring and summer people.

God is not into suspense. There is to be no insecurity of 'will it be okay in the end?' No! God wins which means love wins, truth wins, life wins. One day we will fully see that but for now we hold on to the fact that our God will not let the worst of life have the final say. And that sustains us when it may feel like the dawn is a long time coming; when we feel in that Valley of the Shadow of death.

When you see the Sunrise, when you see the sun - the rhythms of the day - think that it is a picture of the true Light of the world - Jesus the Son of God. Jesus Christ who defeated the ultimate enemy, death.

The tough times come - and go; they will not remain. Light wins.

Enjoy some Summer joy if you can - but however it goes remember the 'happy ever after' God calls us to in Christ - a time Christians will experience fully one day - a heavenly Summer rest indeed. A summer rest Gods calls all people to enjoy in Christ.

AMEN.