

Easter 2017  
by Craig B.

He is risen!

....He is *risen indeed!*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

hopes and fears

Luke 2:28-35

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother:

“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Matthew 26:20-22

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”

“It’s not me!.....,

.....is it, Lord?”

Matthew 26:31-35

Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

“It’s not me!.....,

.....is it, Lord?”

It is me.

This changes everything.

Romans 5:6

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ **died** for the ungodly.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ **died** for us.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Colossians 2:20

Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world,...

Colossians 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heav'n and nature sing,

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow

Far as the curse is found,

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love,