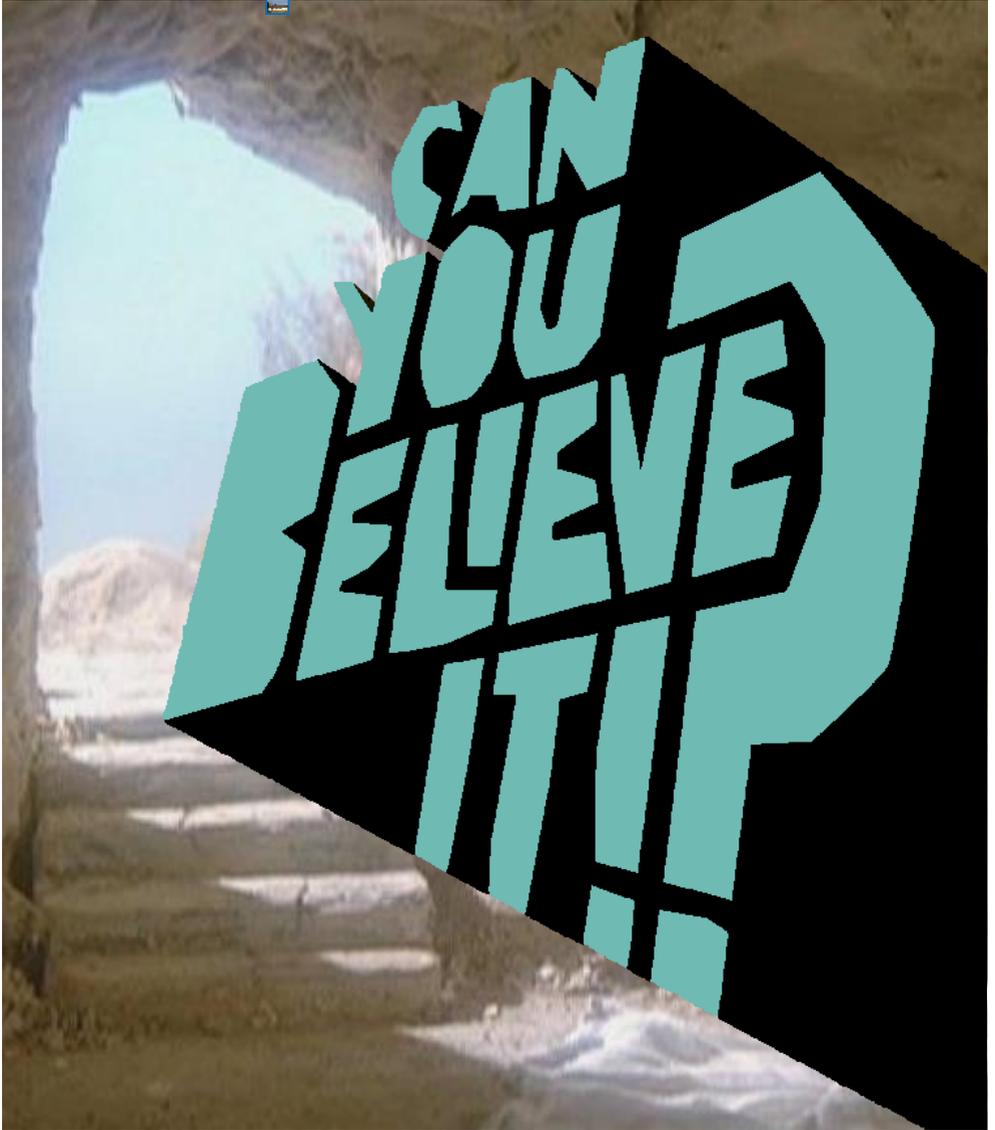




Chet Valley Churches



**All Together Worship
Can You Believe It?**

18th April 2021

Introduction

Today we are going to think about believing.

♪ **Hymn: *Now the Green Blade Riseth***

**Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**In the grave they laid him, Love who men had slain,
Thinking that never he would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus, for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

🙏 **The Collect for Purity—A Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden,
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Collect—A Special Prayer for the Day

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us also to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Confession: We Say Sorry to God

A minister introduces a time of penitence.

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Then all say together

**Father God, we ask you to forgive us
For the things we have thought
And the things we have said
And the things we have done
That do not please you.
We are sorry.**



**Help us to be more like Jesus:
Ready to pray, ready to help others,
Ready to do your will
In all things, every day. Amen.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Knowing ourselves to be forgiven, let's praise God...

♪ Hymn: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (Repeat x4)**

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

📖 Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and

my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Talk [Ros]

Have you ever been not believed? I wonder how you felt? Annoyed? Upset? This happened to me one day long ago on what you call Easter Sunday. You see, I was one of the women who went to Jesus’ tomb on the first day of the week. We’d seen him crucified and knew where the cave was in which he was buried. So as soon as the Sabbath was over, a few of us women went to the tomb. When we arrived we found to our amazement, that the huge stone which had sealed the tomb was rolled back. What was worse we saw that Jesus’ body was gone! Even stranger, angels were telling us that he was risen from the dead! Well, we didn’t know what to do. We rushed back to where the men were hiding in the upper room and breathlessly gasped out what we’d seen. They were all shocked too and Peter and John ran with us back to the tomb. John got there first but Peter, being Peter, went right in and saw for himself that what we said was true; Jesus’ body was gone.

They went back to the others, very puzzled, but some of us women stayed. That’s when we saw him. Mary mistook him for the gardener but as soon as he called her name, she knew who it was. Jesus told her to go back to the others and tell them. She did and we went with her. We burst in and said to them, “Jesus is alive! We’ve seen him and he spoke to Mary!” Do you know, they wouldn’t believe us. They said we were silly women who were hallucinating. Women were not regarded as credible witnesses. In

other words, you couldn't believe a word we said. That made us feel so small and angry too.

Two of our group lived in Emmaus and had decided to go home. Sometime later they came back, full to bursting with the news that they had seen Jesus. In fact he'd walked with them and talked to them but it wasn't until he sat at the supper table and broke bread for them that they realised who it was. They weren't tired anymore and came all the way back to tell us the good news.

While we were talking about all that had happened that day and wondering what it all meant, the most amazing thing happened; Jesus came into the room. The door was shut and locked but he just came in and stood there among us. Now he could have been cross with us for not believing that he was alive. He could have taken us to task for running off and leaving him to face his trials and death alone, but he didn't. He greeted us by saying, "Peace be with you". Some of us were still unsure about what was happening so do you know what he said? He said, "Have you anything to eat?" and we gave him some fish which he took and ate in front of us. Then he explained that what had happened to him was God's plan and that we were to be witnesses and to go out and tell people all that we had heard and seen.

Yes, it was a long time ago but I'll never forget it and the men had to admit that we were right all along.

Creed

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven
and earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from above.**

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**



🎵 **Hymn Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks**

**Alleluia, alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, Give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
He is the King of creation.**

Alleluia, alleluia...

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth,
Jesus has died and has risen.**

Alleluia, alleluia...

**Come let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.**

Alleluia, alleluia...



🙏 **We Pray Together**

Let us pray. Today we have been thinking about what we can believe and when it is hard to believe things.

It is hard to believe that you told us simply to love one another when family life is sometimes so difficult. Help us to learn to love each other better.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

It is hard to believe that you told us that men and women were made in your image when they aren't always treated as if they were. Help us to treat each other equally and with respect.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

It is hard to believe that there is enough food for everyone in the world when people are starving. Help us to share what we have with others so that no-one goes hungry.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

It is hard to believe that we can live in such a beautiful world when people choose to mess it up. Help us to make the right choices to look after this planet and everything that lives on it.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

It is hard to believe that you love us so much that you were willing to die for us to put things right with you. Help us to believe when we are doubtful, and help us to tell others about your wonderful love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring our prayers together in the words that Jesus himself taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

♪ Hymn: *The Day of Resurrection*

**The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From earth unto the sky,
Our God hath brought us over,
With hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light;
And, listening to his accents,
May hear so calm and plain
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.**



**Now let the heavens be joyful,
And earth her song begin!
The round world keep high triumph,
And all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that hath no end.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you
now and always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

He is not here, He is risen.
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

