

Presentation, Feb 2nd 2019

He came to free all those who, all their lives, were held in slavery by their fear of death (Hebrews 2 v 14)

So, lots and lots of people, are slaves to their fear of death. Is that true? Fear of death actually spoils life.

Now, what are you afraid of?

Who's afraid of spiders? Of mice or rats? Of dentists? Needles? Flying? Being laughed at? Teachers? Is anyone afraid of the bogey man? Of nightmares?

What else are you afraid of?

Has anyone's mum or dad ever got really angry with you because you were later home than you said you would be, or because you hid for too long during hide and seek, and they were angry because they were afraid of something happening to you because they love you so much.

When I was little, I was so afraid of nightmares that I used to try to stop myself going to sleep.

Human beings are afraid – held in slavery by the fear of death.

But I want to tell you something wonderful. Some people, the nearer they get to death, the less they are afraid. In every church I have ever belonged to, there have been one or two people, normally old people, who aren't afraid of anything. It's as if they are like Jesus' first disciples who, when Jesus came back from the dead and said to them:

'Be not afraid'

They completely lost their fear.

Today we have been meeting two old people, Symeon and Anna, who were waiting in the temple for God to come, and when they saw the baby Jesus, a light filled their hearts, and they knew they were going to die happy.

Pippa; Evelyn, Reg, Jack, Shirley, everyone. Jesus is saying to you,

Trust me. Follow me. Do not be afraid. Amen