

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 16 Aug: Church service.

Sunday 23 Aug: Church service.
Malcolm speaking.

Friday 28 August: Funeral service
for Monika, 10 AM.

Sunday 30 Aug: Church service. Malcolm speaking.

Other Events

Saturday 20 to 24 August: Thames Valley Teen Camp

Friday 11th - 13 September: UK & Ireland Young
Professionals Retreat in Chesham. Registration: <https://iccmisions.churchsuite.com/events/gtrhbmni>

Sunday 27 September: London-wide service. 11 am,
Friends House, Euston Road, London.

Sept 30th - Oct 04th: Spirituality Retreat. <https://shop.thewayministry.global/2026-csr/home>

Friday 30th October to Sunday 01st November:
Autumn Student Retreat for the UK & Ireland.



Christus Victor: The Cross as Victory

When we look at the cross, we can rightly ask, "What did Jesus accomplish there?" Christians have answered that question in several complementary ways throughout the centuries. One of the oldest is known as Christus Victor, which means "Christ the Victor."

At the heart of this understanding is a hope-filled truth: on the cross and through the resurrection, Jesus defeated the powers of evil, sin, and death and set us free.

Christ the Victor

The Christus Victor understanding of the cross sees Jesus not only as one who suffers, but as the victorious Lord who willingly enters into the darkness in order to overcome it.

Jesus is not a helpless victim whose life has slipped out of his control. He willingly gives himself for us. Even as he is betrayed, condemned, and crucified, God is at work accomplishing his purposes.

The powers of evil are ultimately undone by the very means they use to destroy Jesus. What appears to be defeat becomes victory. What looks like the triumph of darkness becomes the moment when darkness begins to fall.

The cross becomes God's great victory over everything that holds his creation captive.

Christ Frees Us from the Power of Death

The writer of Hebrews gives us one of the clearest pictures of this victory:

"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." Hebrews 2:14-15

These words remind us that death is more than simply the end of biological life. Scripture speaks of death as a power that casts a shadow over humanity, bringing fear, bondage, and separation.

Jesus enters into death itself. He does not avoid it or stand at a safe distance from our suffering. He takes it upon himself and passes through it. And then, on Easter morning, he rises.

Death could not hold him.

That is the heart of the Christian hope. The one who died is alive, and because Christ lives, death no longer has the final word over those who belong to him.

The Resurrection Is Part of the Victory

This is one of the great strengths of the Christus Victor picture: the resurrection is essential to the story. The cross and the empty tomb go together. Good Friday tells us that Christ has entered into the depths of human suffering and death. Easter declares that death has been defeated.

As Malcolm Guite reflects, death had seemed to swallow everything: our lives, our hopes, our dreams, and eventually every human being. But Easter brings a great reversal:

“Death itself is swallowed up, and it is life, the resurrection life Jesus shares with us, that swallows death and stands triumphant.”

This is why Easter isn't a happy ending to a tragic story, but the announcement of a new reality. Christ is risen. Death is defeated. Life has won.

What Does This Mean for Us?

The victory of Christ is not just something that happened long ago. It changes how we live today.

We still encounter sin, suffering, injustice, temptation, fear, and death. The world does not yet look as though everything has been made new. Yet the resurrection assures us that these things do not have ultimate authority.

When we pray, “Deliver us from evil,” we are praying as people who know that Christ has already won the decisive victory.

We may still have battles to face, but we do not face them alone or without hope. The powers of darkness do not have the last word. Sin does not have the last word. Suffering does not have the last word. Jesus does.

The Christian life is lived in the confidence that the victory has already begun, even as we wait for the day when it will be fully revealed.

A Victory We Can Trust

Christus Victor gives us a beautiful way to understand what Jesus has done for us. The cross is not simply a place where something was done to Jesus. It is the place where Jesus willingly gave himself and, through that self-giving love, defeated the powers that enslave us.

We are not merely people who have been told that our sins can be forgiven.

We are people who have been set free. And the resurrection assures us that the freedom Christ brings is stronger than death itself.

One day, the victory we now see by faith will be complete. As the ancient Christian hope declares: “Death, thou shalt die.”

Until that day, we live as people of Easter: trusting Christ, resisting evil, loving our neighbours, and holding firmly to the hope that because Christ has conquered death, death will not have the final word over us.

Christus Victor. Christ the Victor.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you most need to experience the freedom and victory of Christ in your life right now? Is there a fear, temptation, habit, or burden that you need to place into his hands?
2. How does knowing Christ has conquered death change the way you face suffering, uncertainty, or loss? What difference might resurrection hope make in your circumstances this week?
3. If Christ has won the decisive victory, how might that shape the way you live? Where might you be called to resist evil, choose hope, extend forgiveness, or bring Christ's love to someone?

Your brother, Malcolm

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613



Watford Media

