

We Preach Christ Crucified– Lent 2002

6 – Christ our Passover

CHRIST’S CROSS AND ADAM’S TREE

Text

Notes

The cross stands between human fallenness and human fulfilment, between dust and glory, between Eden and the new Jerusalem. And yet we know only too well that these are not different places: for sin and grace, hate and love, dust and glory, Eden and Jerusalem, go right through the middle of us and of our communities. Christ’s cross meets us at that point of conflict of our own fragmentation and tension towards the new. It is at the point of our most profound brokenness, at the shaking of the foundations of our being, that Christ’s cross becomes for us a symbol of hope for the reversal of the forces of death. In the words of John Donne:

We think that Paradise and Calvary,
Christ’s Cross and Adam’s tree, stood in one place.
Look, Lord, and see both Adams met in me.
As the first Adam’s sweat surrounds my face,
May the last Adam’s blood my soul embrace.