

32963 – 3-25-09 -- Easter

By Revs. Casey and Robert Baggott
Community Church of Vero Beach

The End

We recently ran across an interesting article about that indomitable British statesman of not so very long ago, Winston Churchill. It is said that when Winston Churchill died, he asked for the traditional memorial services to be held for him in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. As soon as the service ended, by his request, a bugler who was positioned high in the dome of the great cathedral placed the mouthpiece to his lips and played. The mournful notes of taps, the tune that signals the dying of day, rang out across the cathedral, signaling to all in attendance, the dying of a life. "Day is done, gone the sun."

But, just as the notes of taps faded, again at Churchill's request, a second bugler just across the dome from the first, put his instrument to his lips and began to play reveille. "It's time to get up. It's time to get up. It's time to get up in the morning!" So strong was Churchill's trust in the assurance that eternity awaited him, that he chose this musical demonstration of it. Taps would not be the end of his life's story! Reveille would be.

How many of us are ready to make the same statement? Do we live with that kind of hope? Many of us find that when we are anxious and concerned for ourselves or our loved ones and the future, we are much less certain about the goodness that lies ahead for us. We fear that the pain we feel will never lessen. The loss we've experienced will never be overcome. The sorrow or illness we endure will never heal. The betrayal we knew will be forever debilitating. We suspect that an eternal taps has settled over us and no light is left to dawn in our lives.

But why are we so fearful? Why are we convinced that the worst things are going to be the last significant things in our lives? If we were writing our life's story, many of us who reach these crisis points might just lay aside our pens and give up. But the Easter story – the story we Christians celebrate this week, tells us that the worst things are never the last things! Taps always transitions to reveille. At its simplest, that's the meaning of Easter. It is simple, basic, clear, and compelling. By God's grace, death makes way for new life. It's inescapable, really.

We hope you hear the clear bugle call this Easter morning. Reveille sounds for you this day and eternally. It's time to get up. The end is just the beginning!