

the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH
01 APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

BY JERRY ASCHER

Tomorrow, we will remember Christ's death on the cross in what has come to be known as Good Friday. We know this to be an event of momentous importance, that "Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3). But if that were the end for Christ, Paul reminds us, it would also have meant that there would be no hope for us. If we consider the ramifications of such a possibility, we can understand a little better why all His disciples left Jesus the night before He was crucified. In their minds, all the hope they had put in this Man was for nothing.

And, as we consider the history of world religions, we know that the end of Jesus' life would have been accepted by all as normal. Even today, much time and money are spent in visiting the graves of people whose dogma their followers are trusting in. But imagine how powerless a witness of hope of life after death would be if all we could say about Jesus was, "He is here," as we point toward His final resting place.

This is why His resurrection is so significant. We see this, first, in that the resurrection was proof that Christ's sacrifice for sin was accepted by His Father. If God Himself accepted the sufficiency of Jesus' death, we do not have to entertain doubts when placing our faith in Christ. Paul puts all believers into good company when, speaking of Abraham's faith, he wrote, "Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up

because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification" (Romans 4:23-25).

Second, Christ's resurrection provides the motivation for our sanctification. Paul makes this connection in his letter to believers in Rome. "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts" (Romans 6:10-12). And we have the promise that for those who strive to be holy, their labor will not be in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

Lastly, Christ's resurrection provides hope for our glorification. There is much about death that causes different levels of trepidation in us. But in Christ, death has become safe. Not only will He be with us through the valley of the shadow of death, but we believe Him when He said, "Because I live, you will live also" (John 14:19). And this gives abundant peace. "He is NOT here; for He is risen, as He said." Happy Easter!





Good Friday Services

9:30 or 11 am

In-person services take place in the gym. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the auditorium or available to you at home.



"AND CAN IT BE?"

JOHN 18:1-14

PASTORAL PRAYER

"HERE IS LOVE"

JOHN 18:15-27

"HE WILL HOLD ME FAST"

JOHN 18:28-19:16

"LEAD ME TO CALVARY"

"I AM HIS AND HE IS MINE"

JOHN 19:17-30

"O SACRED HEAD NOW WOUNDED"

"BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS"

JOHN 19:31-42

"JESUS PAID IT ALL"

"THE COMMUNION HYMN"

The Lord's Supper

"HIS ROBES FOR MINE"

CLOSING PRAYER

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:00/9:30/11:00 AM

Please consider coming to the 8 am service to allow more space for guests at later services.

In-person services (with singing) take place in the gym. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the auditorium (no singing) or available to you at home.

- "HALLELUJAH, WHAT A SAVIOR!"
- "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY"
- PRAYER
- "BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"
- MESSAGE: "RADICAL TRANSFORMATION" JOHN 20:1-31
PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "MY HOPE IS IN THE LORD"
- BENEDICTION



WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY/ KIDS 4 TRUTH 7 PM

This mid-week service takes place in-person in the auditorium. If you would like a Zoom link to participate, please email the church office.

Discussion Questions from John 20 are available below:

1. What was Mary's emotional state at the empty tomb? (vv. 1-18)
2. How did Mary change when she saw Jesus alive? (vv. 1-18)
3. What was the disposition of the disciples before they knew Jesus was resurrected? (vv. 19-23)
4. How were the disciples transformed when Jesus appeared to them? (vv. 19-23)
5. What was Thomas's response when the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord"? (vv. 24-25)
6. How was Thomas transformed when Jesus appeared to him? (vv. 26-29)
7. Why did John write his Gospel? (vv. 30-31)

MEN'S PRAYER TIME APRIL 8, 7-8 PM

Pastor Mark invites men to join him in a time of purposeful prayer next Thursday evening.



MISSIONARY UPDATE FROM JOSH & ERICA BURRILL, MALTA

Last week, due to the growing number of coronavirus cases in Malta, the government imposed restrictions that affect us in many ways. After being able to meet for services (with reduced numbers) since July, we have had to move all of our church meetings online for at least the next month. Thankfully, we had adjusted our technology and were able to transition quite easily to our livestream and Zoom formats. The change affected school as well, and now the children are on different electronic devices in 4 corners of our house as they maintain their normal school schedule, but from home. We appreciate your prayers for the health and well-being of our family and church family.

On our last Sunday meeting together as a church, we welcomed seven people into our membership, and are anticipating others joining in the near future. It is exciting to see this step of commitment and we look forward to how the Lord will use each one in the maturing process of our church. We were anticipating the baptism of one of our church teens on Easter Sunday, but have had to postpone that special time for at least a few weeks.

Our ministry with the young adults continues with monthly meetings (currently online) and we had restarted our teen Sunday school class two Sundays a month. I am team-teaching the teens along with a young man in our church.

We recently had a teen activity and look forward to continuing these ministries in the coming months. The Gozo Bible study is currently meeting via Zoom and we are thankful for a consistent group that always looks forward to our meetings.

We thank God for opportunities this last month to sit down and have clear one-on-one gospel conversations with a few men the Lord has brought into our sphere of ministry. One of them prayed to trust in Christ and another has begun attending the church.

Erica continues to engage with ladies through a weekly e-mail as they work through a book together, and she, along with another teacher, is helping record children's ministry teaching videos to share with families.

The building project has been moving slowly-but-surely, as sometimes we wait for the workers to be available. God has provided the financial resources for us to push ahead on many aspects of the work and we anticipate the resumption of the work in the coming weeks. In the meantime, some of the men in the church have been working on other sections and we pray that before summer most of the exterior work will be complete.



*Happy
Easter!*



GIVING

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

**PLEASE NOTE:
THE CHURCH OFFICE
IS CLOSED MONDAY**

Need to contact us?

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