

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:

Do you know what Easter is all about? Do you realize what Jesus did for you?

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

[John 11:25]

There are two things in the human experience and condition we fear most of all: suffering and death. Our Lord has liberated us from the terror of fatality, so we need not fear or be filled with misgivings and worry.

Then why are we still filled with such anxiety about our own death even as a Christian? Even on Easter Sunday where death should be celebrated, very few churches in America actually proclaim Christ's death. Instead, the wonder of what Christ has done is replaced with tales of bunnies and lilies, family and community. Few will go where fears have taken over---unable to lead where they cannot see.

In the passage about Lazarus, Jesus Himself said He was glad to hear of Lazarus' death! **[John 11:14-15]** While the Disciples were horrified as their young friend died, Thomas even feared that he might die too! The Disciples needed to learn that death was not the final frontier of fear, but the truth of life to come. Lazarus' sister, Martha, was the only one who trusted in Jesus, expecting a miracle; and the great miracle literally arose: Lazarus, after being dead for 3 days, suddenly arose to life. *Death was conquered!*

Death is the last and ultimate barrier that Christ conquered on our behalf, giving us the ultimate liberation! He removed the apprehensions and terror and gave us a glimpse of the wonder of eternity and joy with Him. Death is no longer the subject of horror, but is our hope of the reward to come. At the same time, we are not to dwell on it, neglecting our purpose on this earth, so He only gives us a peek, showing us enough to erase our fears so we can concentrate on making ourselves His disciples by allowing His words to dig their way into our hearts, conquering our fears and barriers to our spiritual growth. Jesus tells us not to let our heart be troubled; so, let us erase those fears for which we have no need! **[John 14:1-4]**

Our comfort and reassurance is in what our Lord did on our behalf, what He did in our place. He took our suffering and our death, and literally took it on Himself, so we need not fear what is to come.

His suffering and death was not the end of the story, but only the beginning, as it will be for us. Christ gave us a victory that we did not earn or deserve; yet, it is ours to have. Let us rejoice and be glad in Him!

The Creator of the universe lowered Himself like the created beings He made who were filled with flaws and sin, and who needed redemption. A journey was made that was filled with countless sufferings and an eventual death, on behalf of a humanity that neither asked for it nor could do it for themselves. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ was the supreme act of proving who He is and what He can do for us! **[Acts 2:24; 17:31; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 20; 54-57]**

It was the raising to life of a man who was dead and buried---a man who was fully human and fully God.

[Acts 1:3]

The fact that so many people saw Him after His resurrection and the impact of the fatal wounds He received gave proof of faith and devotion to Christianity over the centuries to come and paved the way for us to live in eternity and conquer the finality of death! **[Luke 24:31; 36; Philippians 3:21; Hebrews 7:16-24; Acts 2:24-35; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54]**

Christ's resurrection provided us not only with eternity and ultimate hope and meaning for life, but immediate relief from our sin, and the barriers to God. Through what Christ did, we are redeemed and can go directly to God without sacrificing the family pet or needing the mediation of a priest. We are able to have our prayers heard, our journey of life known, and be assured we have a God who truly loves us and cares for us beyond our comprehension! **[John 11:25-26; Romans 4:25, 6; 1 Corinthians 15:17; Ephesians 1:18--2:10; Colossians 2:9-15; 3:1-4]**

Jesus is risen to redeem us! **[Matthew 28:10; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24: 1-12; John 20:24-29]**

Source: [https://www.intothyword.org/apps/articles/Jesus Suffering and Resurrection](https://www.intothyword.org/apps/articles/Jesus_Suffering_and_Resurrection), Dr. Richard J. Krejcir

To share an article in THE HERALD, please email it to: office@gregorymemorial.org or drop it in the church office mailbox.

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MARCH, 2024

Sunday, 3 March, 2024

“3rd Sunday in Lent” – Liturgical Color: Purple
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

Sunday, 10 March, 2024

“4th Sunday in Lent” – Liturgical Color: Purple
 Worship Services: Rev. John Scholer

Sunday, 17 March, 2024

“5th Sunday in Lent” – Liturgical Color: Purple
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Nancy Clark

Sunday, 24 March, 2024

“Palm Sunday” – Liturgical Color: Purple
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Wendel Gouldman

Thursday, March 28, 2024

“Maundy Thursday” – Liturgical Color: Purple
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

Sunday, 31 March, 2024

“Day of Resurrection/Easter Day” – Liturgical Color: White
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel



OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community. Please let the church office know if any updates to this list are needed.

<p>First-responders, world-wide Our deployed U.S. service personnel & their families Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters & gun violence Those affected by the October 2023 Israeli-Hamas War in Gaza People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine; Russian citizens conscripted into war Those in our community suffering from illness/loss/grief/hardship Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister Becky Scott Smith Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues) Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother Verne & Clara Smith Eddie Frankenstein Etta Holc Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues) Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue) Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (health issue) Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue) Emily Henry, Mary Holc’s sister (health issue)</p>	<p>Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna L. Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue) Charlie Perkins (health issue) Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue) Grace Cibula (recovering at home; health issues) Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley’s & Sandy Eickmeyer’s friend (brain injury) John Carl Allen (recovering, orthopedic surgery) Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues) Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca, Lykins family friend (health issue) Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues; Peggy: Petersburg Home for Ladies, Rm #18) Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter’s grandson (on-going health issue) Judy Recher (health issue) Shirley MacNeill (health issues; recovering at home) Family/friends: Dee Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (d.1/22) Family/friends: Harold Shockley, Susan Shockley’s dad (d.1/27) Family/friends: Larry Dingas (d.2/2)</p>
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CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

Our 2023 schedule for Holy Communion provides that we celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday in even-numbered months. We will celebrate our next Holy Communion on **Sunday, April 7.**

We are continuing with the practice of passing the communion elements among the pews.

HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2024

February 4, 2024 April 7, 2024	June 9, 2024 August 4, 2024	October 13, 2024 December 1, 2024
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ANNOUNCERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

March 3	Susan Shockley
March 10	Rose Scott
March 17	Donald Hunter
March 24	Patsy Johnson
March 31	Sandy Hunter

[An Ode to M and M's]

THE SWEET TRUTH OF EASTER

By Bethany Tapp

<http://ministry-t0-children.com/easter-poem>

These candies tell a story--the best news you'll ever hear.
It's about Jesus dying on the cross so that we could be brought near.

So hold them and turn them and you will see...
The "M" becomes a "W" and "E" and then a "3."

The "E" stands for...Easter...God's everlasting love and His eternal Plan.
It reminds of the cross and the way God rescued sinful man.

The "3" represents the 3 days Jesus spent in the grave...
By His death, His children He did save.

The "M" reminds us of the mercy the Messiah showed as He died in our place,
And the miracle of the Resurrection so we can see Him face to face.

The "W" reminds us...that He alone is worthy of our worship and praise
And calls us to be His witnesses around the world
For all of our days.

SOME EASTER (A)MUSINGS

IT'S THE EASTER ...GOUNDHOG?!

A Sunday school teacher was attempting to teach her young students the true meaning of Easter. "Why do we celebrate Easter?" she asked. When the children replied 'because of the Easter bunny,' Easter eggs, candy, spring, etc., she said, "No, those are Easter traditions and symbols, but what is the REASON why we celebrate Easter? What happened at the very first Easter?"

A little girl raised her hand and said, "Easter celebrates Jesus coming out of the tomb." "Yes!" said the teacher, excited and relieved that finally the correct answer had surfaced.

Encouraged, she prompted, "Jesus arose from the tomb, and what does He do for us?" The youngster replied, "*He looks to see if he can see his shadow, and if He can, he goes back in for another 6 weeks.*"

HOW TO KILL EGGS....WAIT, WHAT?!

Little Lauren Marks was 5. On the Saturday before Easter, the Marks family was just finishing lunch when Lauren jumped up excitedly and asked, "When are we going to KILL the eggs?" It took her parents a few minutes of catch-up time, but it dawned on them that Lauren to "*DIE*" (*DYE*) the eggs.

SIX THINGS ABOUT LIFE THAT

I LEARNED FROM THE EASTER BUNNY:

1. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.
2. Everyone needs a friend who is "all ears."
3. There's no such thing as **too much candy**.
4. Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
5. Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits!
6. Some body parts *SHOULD* be floppy.

A QUARTER ... FOR JESUS?

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the city bus from his home to the downtown area.

When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it! It's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount?"

Continuing on, he rationalized to himself, "Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When the bus arrived at his stop, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?"

"Yes," the preacher replied.

Then the driver said, "Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

At his stop when the preacher stepped off the bus, he grabbed the nearest light pole to steady himself, held on, and said to himself, "*OH GOD, I ALMOST SOLD YOUR SON FOR A QUARTER!*"

We must remember that our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on your guard -- and remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

Being a Christian is a lot like being on the old show, Candid Camera: ***When you least expect it, expect it!***

MARCH, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Order Easter Lilies Feb. 18-Mar. 10</i>					1	2
3 "3rd Sunday in Lent" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. K. C. Jackson <i>Order Easter Lilies</i>	4 6p BSA Crater Order of Arrow (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	5	6	7 6a Clean Church 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	8	9
10 "4th Sunday in Lent" 2a Begin Daylight Saving Time 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. John Scholer <i>Last day to order Easter Lilies</i>	11	12 1p Circle meeting @ GMPC 7p Finance Cmte	13 7p Faith Cmte	14 6a Clean Church 11a Call church lily order in to florist	15	16
17 "5th Sunday in Lent" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Nancy Clark 12p Session Meeting Moderator: Rev. Nancy Clark	18	19 6p GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	20	21 6a Clean Church 2p Newsletter articles due 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	22	23
24 "Palm Sunday" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service ➤ 5 Cents-a- Meal Offering Guest preacher: Rev. Wendel Gouldman	25	26	27 6p BSA Tr 900 meeting (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	28 Maundy Thursday 6a Clean Church 2p Newsletter out 7p Maundy Thurs. Service Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. K C. Jackson	29 Good Friday	30 Holy Saturday 
31 "Resurrection"/ "Easter Day" 7a Sunrise Service followed by breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service ➤ Local Emergency Aid Offering Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel 2p Cmte reports due						

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STAMP

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



COME AND JOIN US!
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)