

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

An Easter Thought from David's Desk

In the Book of Job (Job 14:14) the man Job asks a question: "If a man die, shall he live again?"

Job's question points directly to one of the greatest problems that confronts us human beings: death. According to the Bible, the other great problem is our sin, our rebellion against God's will for us.

According to one of my greatest professors, Dr. John H. Leith, we modern folks do not ask Job's question as frequently as previous generations. We think that death is simply a biological problem that, through science, we can "fix" some day. Nor do we fret over our "sin before God" as much. We might worry about our failures before our boss at work, or before our family and friends, but not so much before God .

However Leith points out that both sin and death still persist as our greatest problems. Simply turn on the evening news and we can see ample evidence of that hard reality. Is there any hope for us then, given the certainty of both our sin and our death.

"Yes" taught St. Augustine (A.D. 354-430). Neither our sin nor death caught God by surprise. Before all time our God had the "Solution" for our great problem, and His name is Jesus Christ; and the solution is His life, death, and Resurrection. In Easter the church declares the "Good News" that in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has defeated both sin and death, and so given each and every one of us the hope of life everlasting. The answer to Job's question is: "Yes"; if a person dies, that person can live again"! All that person or, or any person, needs to do is to believe in God's "Good News" in Jesus Christ and to follow Him in all their ways.

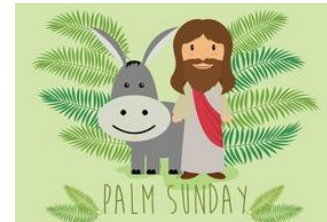
Peace in Christ, and "Happy Easter"

David



Palm Sunday ~ April 2, 2023

Meet outside the sanctuary about 10:20 so we can process in carrying Palm Branches to be put in the front of the church. If you would rather not be part of the procession, you can go in a sit with your palm branch.



The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the Passover Festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a donkey and rode on it, just as the scripture says,

¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, city of Zion!
Here comes your king,
riding on a young donkey."

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand this at the time; but when Jesus had been raised to glory, they remembered that the scripture said this about him and that they had done this for him.



Pot Luck Fellowship Luncheon following church. The Fellowship Committee will provide chicken tenders and drinks.



*Tenebrae/Maundy Thursday
Service ~ 7 pm
Thursday, April 6, 2023*



Come to hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion as told in the Bible. The congregation will also celebrate "The Last Supper" by intinction. After the story is read, the Back Street Ringers will close the service with "Were You There?" The congregation will be asked to leave the service reflecting on the story they have just heard.

Jesus Is Crucified

²¹ On the way they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was from Cyrene and was the father of Alexander and Rufus.) ²² They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Place of the Skull." ²³ There they tried to give him wine mixed with a drug called myrrh, but Jesus would not drink it. ²⁴ Then they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get which piece of clothing. ²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The notice of the accusation against him said: "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ They also crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. ²⁸ [a]



*Easter Sunday ~ April 2,
2023*

SUNRISE SERVICE ~ 7 am

Top of the hill at Godwin Cemetery

This is a joint service with the Fincastle United Methodist Church. It will take place rain or shine. There will be a breakfast after the service at the Family Life Center at FUMC. FPC is helping to provide the breakfast.



REGULAR SERVICE at
10:30



Come celebrate the risen Lord. Special music will be played by The Back Street Ringers. The music the bell ringers will be playing is *Now The Green Blade Riseth*. (Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, **Wheat** that in the dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.)

The Empty Tomb

²⁰ Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. ² She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. ⁴ The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. ⁶ Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there ⁷ and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (⁹ They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back home. ¹¹ Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb ¹² and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her. She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!" ¹⁴ Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who is it that you are looking for?" She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (This means "Teacher.")

There will be no Fellowship Time after church so everyone can go home and spend time with Family.



The Next Men's Fellowship Breakfast

*Saturday, April 15 at
Maw and Paw's Restaurant
in Eagle Rock*



David will be on Educational Leave starting after church, April 9, 2020 until Sunday, April 16, 2023. Nancy Gray will preach on Sunday, April 16, 2023.

Session Meeting ~ Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 pm at the Fellowship Hall

Check the weekly announcements and prayer list and Birthdays in the bulletin for updates.





This is a picture of the walk way from the Big Spring Park to Breckinridge Elementary School. It is a great walk!

The view of Fincastle Presbyterian Church from the walkway.

