

St John Church of Christ

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday Program

Children's Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Pete and Penelope are back!
Join them at 10:00 A.M.

Adult Bible Class

10:30 A.M.

The Resurrection is the keystone of Christianity. Join us to learn about the reasonableness of the resurrection

Worship

11:00 A.M.

Log into Facebook.com and search for "St. John Church of Christ" or just follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnChurchOfChrist/>

Please join us in worshipping God this morning. Send us your prayer requests throughout the broadcast. We will include them in our benediction.

Song: And Can It Be?

Communion

Lesson: The Testimony of Thomas

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)

Benediction & Prayer

(CCLI #244012t9)

The Keystone of Christianity

The reality of the resurrection is the keystone of Christianity. As the Apostle Paul said, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ... If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.'" (1 Corinthians 14:14, 32)

Let's tell the story again. Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus claimed the body of Christ for a hasty, but royal burial (John 19:38). The enemies of Christ guarded the tomb (Matthew 27:62-66). The first witnesses of the resurrection were a little, devoted band of women; then he appeared to many people in many different locations over a period of forty days (1 Corinthians 15:1-8).

Yes, but was he really resurrected? What are the options? If he didn't truly die, he wasn't truly resurrected. This is called the *Swoon Theory*. Jesus just fainted or, like an eastern yogi, slowed his heart down enough to fool the guards who put a spear through his heart. Fortunately, according



to this increasingly silly story, the wrappings, spices and two nights rest on a cold slab were enough to heal Jesus! Then, because he was a quick healer, Jesus got up, rolled the massive stone away from the mouth of the tomb and overpowered four armed guards. This sounds more like a bad Kung-Fu movie than a viable theory!

Others believe Jesus just lived on, kept alive in the hearts of the believers. The Savior only lives figuratively, so Thomas must have figuratively touched Jesus' hands, feet, and side! Jesus must have figuratively eaten a couple of meals!

Finally, still, others believe the whole thing was a psychological

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phenomenon. They wanted so badly to believe Jesus was alive; they hallucinated the resurrection. But if that is the case (and I am still trying to imagine 500 people all having the same vision) why did the visions stop after 40 days?

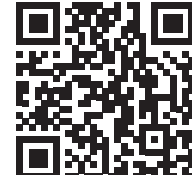
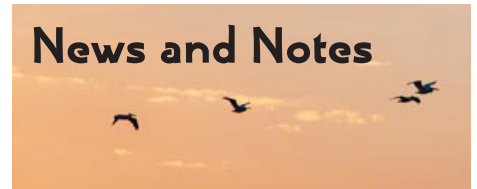
Consider these facts. Notice how many different people saw Jesus alive after the crucifixion. Think about how many differ-

ent places Jesus appeared (from Jerusalem to Galilee and back). Consider the time factor. Jesus showed himself alive for 40 days; long enough to prove the resurrection, and then the appearances stopped.

So, what does the resurrection do for us? First, it gives us hope, and second, it gives us courage. What will you do with your hope and courage today?



News and Notes



Scan this QR code with your Smart Phone to visit our website:

<https://stjohnchurchofchrist.org>

Follow us on Facebook!

Do you have a news item, prayer request, or event to share with us? Call John McKeel (619) 313-7997.

What's Your Preference?

We are mailing this little bulletin to every family, but many people would rather just receive it electronically.

Please email us with your preference:

John@JohnMcKeel.com.

Did you enjoy singing along this morning?

We express our gratitude to the Richland Hills music ministry for permission to use the song, "And Can It Be?" from their album *Rescued*.

Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788) wrote the words and Thomas Campbell (1777 - 1844) wrote the music. Thomas was the father of Alexander Campbell.

(CCLI #244012t9)

For Your Prayers

Are you "sheltering in place"? Are you "social distancing"? Sometimes it may feel like the walls are beginning to close in, but there have been some high notes too. People are calling each other to check-in and check-on. Video conferencing, FaceTime, and Skype has brought us closer to our distant families. We need to pray hard for one another!

During our Live Stream worship services, we have received many prayer requests that we would like to share here:

- "Please pray for Maren Turner Turner, 2 year old from Great Bend who has Leukemia."
- David N Pam Murphy asked us to pray for "John Brock recovering from his amputation."
- Pam would like us to pray for "Brad Miller, formerly from Sylvia who was diagnosed with cancer this week."
- Kari asked us to "Please pray for my friend Heidi as she is going through radiation for breast cancer."

We are also praying for our missionaries in Mexico and Florida and for the Sunset International Bible Institute students in Singapore. Pray for our online presence as we stream our worship and Bible Classes. Ask God to help us take advantage of these new opportunities!

In addition, let's pray for the safety of our community, our elderly and especially for our children. Thank God for those who are giving their time to minister to them and provide them with meals.

Pray for our families. Many businesses have closed or restricted their hours. Without work, needs are going to be great for them.