

St John Church of Christ

April 4, 2021

Worship
Service

Premiers
Sunday at 11:00



He is Risen!

Welcome to Worship.

Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ every Sunday, but today is special. It marks the historical dates when Jesus – who truly lived – was crucified, buried and rose again.

Our children's Bible classes resume this morning, and John will present a special multi-media class for the adults on "The Last Week in the Life of Christ." It all begins at 10:00 with worship to follow at 11:00.

If you are unable to be with us in person, our worship is shared through our website:

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

Simply select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:

[St. John Church of Christ](#)

Christmas Trees and Easter Eggs

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus and Easter commemorates the season of his death, burial and resurrection, but are they based on fact? No serious scholar doubts Jesus of Nazareth had a birthday and a day on which he died but how certain are we of those exact dates?

Frankly, Christmas Day was chosen on the basis of convenience. Of course, there is no doubt Jesus was born, but the exact date is completely lost in antiquity. In fact, the Bible says Jesus was born while Herod the Great reigned but Herod died in 4 B.C.! It's more than likely that Jesus was born around 6 B.C. but, as for the day or the month, that's anyone's guess. The earliest Christians didn't celebrate Christmas and, much later, when some of them wanted to create a holiday to celebrate his birth, they chose an existing pagan holiday and "sanctified" it with new meaning.

On the other hand, while "Easter" with its bunnies and eggs was also a pagan holiday, the timing is pure coincidence. The events surrounding the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus were linked to the Jewish feast, Passover, and have been celebrated every Sunday from the very beginning of Christianity.



Passover celebrates the liberation of the Jewish people from Egyptian slavery (Exodus chapter 12). On the night of the 10th plague, the Israelites sacrificed a lamb and painted its blood on the doorposts of their houses. The "death angel" passed-over their homes when he saw the blood sparing those within. Blood represents life and it took the sacrifice of an innocent life to set them free. Likewise, the historical Jesus died on the eve of an historical Passover giving his life to set us free.

Since Passover is a lunar holiday, the date on our calendar varies from year to year. Likewise, Christians have been divided about whether to celebrate the anniversary on the actual date of the event (which would fall on differ-

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ent days of the week every year) or to always link it to the actual day, Sunday. Here, in the West, it is traditionally celebrated on “Resurrection Sunday” and while we honor the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus every week (as Christians have from the beginning) it is especially heart-warming to celebrate Resurrection Sunday knowing it is firmly based in historical fact.



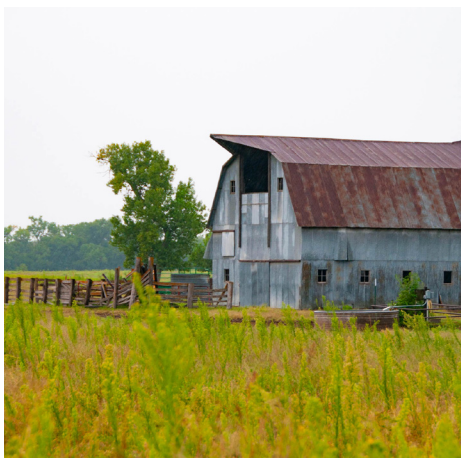
News & Prayer Requests

We have had a number of knee surgeries among our members this month. Marilyn, Lisa, and Orvalee continue to recover from their surgeries.

Gayle is continuing to have bleeding problems and has been in the hospital in Pratt. Please pray that the doctors can find the source of her blood loss.

Please continue to pray for Paul as he battles cancer in Washington state, and let’s continue to pray for Curtis in Pratt as he wrestles with cancer.

Please begin praying about VBS and Silver Maple Bible Camp programs coming this coming summer.



Key Dates

- **Vacation Bible School**
- April 21 VBS Planning
- April 28 Work Night
- May 5 Work Night
- May 12 Work Night
- May 19 Work Night
- May 26 Work Night
- Saturday June 5 One-Day Vacation Bible School!
- **Silver Maple Bible Camp**
- April 24 Work Day
- **CORE Dinner**
- May 24, Monday Night

Something to Think About

Jimmy Carter recounted his interview for a position on a nuclear submarine with Admiral Rickover:

I had applied for the nuclear submarine program, and Admiral Rickover was interviewing me for the job. It was the first time I met Admiral Rickover, and we sat in a large room by ourselves for more than two hours, and he let me choose any subjects I wished to discuss. Very carefully, I chose those about which I knew most at the time -- current events, seamanship, music, literature, naval tactics, electronics, gunnery -- and he began to ask me a series of questions of increasing difficulty. In each instance, he soon proved that I knew relatively little about the subject I had chosen.

He always looked right into my eyes, and he never smiled. I was saturated with cold sweat.

Finally, he asked a question and I thought I could redeem myself. he said, “How did you stand in your class at the Naval Academy?” Since I had completed my sophomore year at Georgia Tech before entering Annapolis as a plebe, I had done very well, and I swelled my chest with pride and answered, “Sir, I stood fifty-ninth in a class of 820!” I sat back to wait for the congratulations -- which never came. Instead, the question: “Did you do your best?” I started to say, “Yes, sir,” but I remembered who this was and recalled several of the many times at the Academy when I could have learned more about our allies, our enemies, weapons, strategy, and so forth. I was just human. I finally gulped and said, “No, sir, I didn’t always do my best.”

He looked at me for a long time, and then turned his chair around to end the interview. He asked one final question, which I have never been able to forget -- or to answer. He said, “Why not?” I sat there for a while, shaken, and then slowly left the room.

