



TRUE LIGHT

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

March 21, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship:

8:45 a.m. (masked)

Sunday School 9:50 a.m.

10:30 a.m. (masks optional)

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
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DEACONS

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"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

SURELY!

The Centurion stood sheepishly before the governor, Pontius Pilate. He had not asked for this duty. He commanded the elite troops of Rome while stationed in Caesarea. Caesarea was near the Mediterranean coast. Not only was it beautiful, but it felt more like home. However, the Centurion was in Judea, far away from Caesarea, in a dangerous and volatile place called Jerusalem.

With rumors about the Nazarene named Jesus percolating through the crowds, King Herod had asked for a more substantial Roman military presence during the Passover feast. The Jewish Ruling Council had sent Jesus to Pilate, screaming for his execution. Pilate then ordered the Centurion, along with his men, to keep the peace and oversee three condemned men's death. The Centurion's primary job was to keep the peace, then confirm to Pilate that one specific condemned criminal, the one from Nazareth, was dead.

Watching over the death detail was beneath his station. The Centurion was a professional soldier, not an executioner, and certainly not a prison house lackey. When ordered to carry out Pilate's sentence on the Nazarene, he had expected the worst. Reality proved him right.

The Centurion anticipated the ranting, raving, insults, mockery, and cruel jokes. His men would enter into this sadistic part of the execution of the three men. As the condemned endured the slow, humiliating death of crucifixion, criminals expected this sort of behavior from the executioners.

However, the Centurion had not expected other more cosmic events. Earthquakes, darkness at midday, and the eerie sense of something much bigger happening had set the Centurion on edge. The look in the Nazarene's eye also tugged at his heart. In the middle of the mayhem of a public crucifixion, the Nazarene had said, *Father forgive them, they don't know what they are doing.* Then, this helpless man from Nazareth had looked right at him, the one in charge of it all!

The death detail of soldiers cast lots for the Nazarene's clothes. The religious powerbrokers hurled their insults at him. The two criminals on either side of him screamed at each other, the crowd, and the Roman soldiers in charge. This Nazarene, however, had prayed for their forgiveness!

Then this dying man, named Jesus, had looked at one of his friends and told him to take care of his mother. He then looked into the heavens and seemed to give his spirit to some unseen deity - this God he called Father. At that moment, this battle-hardened man, this Centurion who was part of the best and most hardened of Rome's army, surprised himself. *Surely this was the son of God,* the Centurion heard himself say.

When Jesus' death was confirmed, Pilate sent the Centurion back to Golgotha, skull hill, where they had overseen the end of this Jesus of Nazareth. There were two others he and his small entourage of elite soldiers accompanied. They were quite a sight. The Centurion in his burnished armor, a wealthy man named Joseph in his fancy clothes, along with a man in all of the religious garb he had the religious leaders wear earlier. Only these two men were allowed to take down the body of the Nazarene from the cross and bury it. The Centurion and his men were to accompany them. The presence of the Roman Centurion and his men was to ensure that nothing happened to the body.

Once again, the Centurion found himself at the foot of the foul-smelling, blood-stained instrument of torture.

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CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

March 22 - Susie Blackwell
Cindy Burleson
Brooke Smith
March 23 - Alexis Forman
Wes Howard
Loretta Zimmerman
March 24 - Ashley Johnson
March 27 - Mary Barnett



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Cleaning Supplies (non-aerosol) * Furniture Polish * Grape Juice (bottled) * Small Freezer Bags * Spaghetti Sauce * Taco/Burrito Mixes
PICK-UP DATE APRIL 26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

March 23 - Mark & Rita Clayton

Attendance for March 14: 107
Contribution for March 7: \$4855

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36

Remember: Mike and Judy Duley were both feeling ill this past week * **Pauline and Sonny Allen** remain at Cypress Point, room 24, and would appreciate cards and notes of encouragement *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Pam Claeys * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * Morris Karnes * Sonja Mays * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Diana Gavel * Jerry Grimes * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Paul Maddox * Brenda Robinson * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead * Eva Latham

Our Shut Ins

Fern Botsch * Pam Claeys * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Shirley Johnson * Sonja Mays * Elwood Rush * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

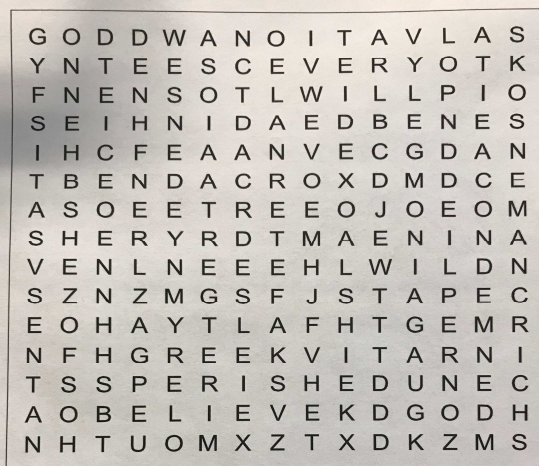


Congratulations to Kalee Howard on her recent engagement to Owen Foster.

Kalee and Owen have tentatively set a date for late August.

In Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to Rick Beard and Rita Clayton in the death of their uncle Ronald Beard, who passed away Monday. Ronnie's funeral was held Thursday in Bernie.



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1. Salvation

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|------------|---------|-----------|
| AGAIN | GREEK | RICH |
| ASHAMED | HEART | SALVATION |
| BELIEVE | JEW | SATISFY |
| BORN | KINGDOM | SAVED |
| CONDEMNED | MOUTH | SENT |
| CONFESS | NAME | SON |
| DEAD | ONLY | STANDS |
| DIFFERENCE | PERISH | THINE |
| ETERNAL | RAISED | WILL |
| EXCEPT | REPLIED | WORLD |

Continued from front

This time he was there to take down the Nazarene's mutilated and lifeless body. His death detail of soldiers must now oversee the entombment of an executed Nazarene in a borrowed tomb.

Somehow, the Centurion knew Jesus' story wasn't over. Even when his men rolled the stone across the door to the tomb and sealed it shut, he had the lingering suspicion that he had not heard the end of this Nazarene fellow.

Little did the Centurion know that the strange pull of faith on his heart would be challenged and enlivened with what was about to happen over the next few days. Surely this Jesus is the Son of God! The Centurion would hear his heart repeat this confession of faith in the coming days. In the coming weeks, many would come to agree with him.

Is this exactly how the story happened? Notice the Roman Centurion's role in the Biblical account. His reaction was not unique. Throughout the story of Jesus, leading soldiers, then later in the early church, recognized something powerfully significant about Jesus. We meet three Centurions who all demonstrate some level of faith in Jesus:

- The Centurion with the sick servant who recognizes Jesus' authority (Luke 7:1-10).
- The Centurion at the Cross who confesses Jesus as the Son of God (mark 15:37-47).
- The Centurion named Cornelius becomes the first Gentile disciple recognized by the church leaders in Jerusalem (Acts 10:1-48; Acts 11:1-18).

Today's challenge for you and me is to believe:

- That we can receive the Lord's help with appreciation and confidence knowing He has the ultimate authority to bless our lives (Luke 7:5-10).
- That we can trust that Jesus is the Son of God who has died on the Cross to share God's life with us (Mark 15:37-39).
- That no matter how good our life may appear to be (Acts 10:22-23), Jesus calls each of us to receive the Holy Spirit and be baptized based on our faith (Acts 10:34-48; Acts 11:15-18).

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Easter Potluck

An Easter potluck dinner is planned for Sunday, April 4, following morning services. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you would like to attend.

