



TRUE LIGHT

April 7, 2024

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :
9:30 a.m.
Worship:
10:15 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

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

Psalm 118:24

We Welcome You To All Of Our Services

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE: A POST-EASTER MEDITATION

Several years ago, I received an urgent call to visit a dying man in a hospital. I didn't know Peter well, but well enough to know that he was paying a high price for his hard living. Years of drug and alcohol had pilfered his system. Though he'd made peace with God through Christ, his liver was in conflict with his body.

When his ex-wife phoned, she was standing at his bedside. Peter, she explained, was knocking at death's door. Though I hurried, he entered it seconds before I arrived. The hospital room atmosphere had a "just happened" feel to it. The ex-wife was still standing by the bed. His hair was stroked back from her touch. The imprint of a lipstick kiss was just below the knuckles on his left hand. Perspiration beads sparkled on his forehead. She saw me enter and looked up. With her eyes and words, she explained, "He just left."

He slipped silently out. Exited. Departed. He passed, not away, but on. Yet, on to where? And in what form? To what place? In what manner? And, once there, what did he see? Know or do? We so desire to know. Who in your life "just left"? When the breathing of your husband ceased, the beating heart in the womb stopped, and when the beep of your grandmother's monitor became a flat-lined tone, what happened in that final moment?

And, what will happen to you in yours? Barring the return of Christ, you will have one ... a last gasp, a final pulse. Your lungs will empty, and your blood will still. Since the moment is inevitable, should we not prepare for it?

When asked the question, "What will we be after we die?" the human race has conjured up four answers.

1. Nothing - we will decay and/or disintegrate. Death is a dead end. Our work and reputation might survive, but not us.
2. Ghosts - Phantoms of what we once were. Pale as Edgar Winters' beard. Structured as a morning mist. What will we be after we die? Specters.
3. Or, hawks. Or cows or a car mechanic in Kokomo. Reincarnation rewards or punishes us according to our behavior. We come back to earth in another mortal body. Or as...?
4. A part of the universe. Eternity absorbs us like a lake absorbs a storm. We return to what we were before we were what we are ... we return to the cosmic consciousness of the universe.

According to some folks, we bury the soul when we bury the body like a wrapping with a hot dog, never expecting to see either again. Other people propose that the spirit abandons the body as a butterfly escapes the cocoon.

Christianity, on the other hand, posits a new, startling, surprising idea. What you had before death, you'll have after death, only better - much, much better. You will go to paradise: heaven, but not home. Then, upon the return of Christ, you will receive a spiritual body and inhabit a restored universe. This is the promise of God. This promise hinges on the resurrection of Christ. The Christian hope depends entirely upon the assumption that Jesus Christ died a physical death, vacated an actual grave, and ascended into heaven where he, at this moment, reigns as head of the church.

The Easter miracle, in other words, changed everything.

It was Sunday morning after the Friday execution. The sky was dark. The disciples had scattered. And the Roman executioner was wondering about breakfast, or work, or his next day off. But he was not wondering about the fellow he had nailed to a cross and pierced with a spear. Jesus was dead and buried. Yesterday's news, right? Wrong. God shook things up.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay' (Matthew 28:2-6).

Had such words never been spoken, had the body of Jesus decayed into dust within the borrowed tomb, you would not be reading this essay, and we would not be discussing this promise. But the words were spoken, and the promise was made more than once.

Jesus appeared to the women near the tomb and to the followers in the Upper Room. He appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and his friends on the shore of Galilee. He spoke with them. He ate with them. They touched His body, they heard His words. They were convinced that Jesus was risen from the dead.

And they drew this conclusion. His resurrection is the proof and promise of ours. What God did for Him, He will do with us. When He rose from the dead, Jesus was the *first fruits* (1 Cor. 15:20-23). "First fruits" is the first taste of the harvest. The farmer can anticipate the nature of the crop by sampling the first crop. We can anticipate our own resurrection by trusting the empty tomb of Christ.

Here is what is going to happen to you. Upon death, your spirit will immediately enter into the presence of God. You will enjoy conscious fellowship with the Father and with those who have gone before. We believe this to be true because of verses like this from the Apostle Paul:

If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far (Philippians 1:21-23).

Paul believed that his last breath on earth would be followed by his first glimpse of Christ in paradise. The same is true for you. Say goodbye to loved ones. Say hello to God. You will then enjoy fellowship with God and loved ones until the day when Christ returns.

[T]he dead will hear the voice of the Son of God...all who are ... in their graves will hear His voice ... they will come out... (John 5: 25, 28-29).

He who created us will collect us:

The Lord, who scattered his people, will gather them together (Jeremiah 31:10). For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words (1 Thes. 4:16-18).

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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

April 11 - Levi Thompson
April 12 - Maura Thomason
April 13 - Casey Karnes



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Salsa/Picante Sauce * Coffee * Cereal *
Tissues * Velveeta Cheese *
Chocolate Chips
Pick up date: May 20

WILLING TO SERVE

April 7, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Brandon Chesser
Prayer.....tba
Scripture.....tba
Dismissal.....tba

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
Prayer.....tba
Dismissal.....tba

April 14, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Derek Mays
Dismissal.....David Burleson

Attendance for March 31: 113

Contribution for March 31: \$ 4820

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Helen McGowan will have surgery Thursday to remove her non-viable kidney * **Cody Boyt** had surgery Friday to remove two stage 1 cancerous tumors in her stomach * **Janie Burleson** recovering from COVID * **Donna McKuinn** will be having an echocardiogram and stress test soon * **Loretta Carson** has been sick with flu-like symptoms * **Cathy Provance** has been sick but is doing better * **Becky Johnson** will be having additional surgery in a few months * **Roxanne Carson and Joe Vincent** currently undergoing treatments for cancer * **Sue Flowers** continuing to decline but having good days here and there * **Maura Thomason** will be having a fluoroscopy and a steroid epidural on her spine Thursday * **Stan Goodman**, Phyllis Howard's brother-in-law, recently diagnosed with cancer.

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * David Carson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuinn * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Mike Napier * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Bill Peck * Nikki Reif * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Alan Woodward

Other health issues (non-congregational):

We are updating our sick list. If you have someone you'd like added to the list, please let Amy know.

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

TODAY - Our Gospel Meeting with Brent Newton begins and runs through Wednesday. We will have a potluck meal today following morning worship, and a light meal tonight following evening worship. Please check the sheet in the foyer to see what we need help with.

Wednesday Fellowship Meal: Catfish, chicken strips, and the fixins'. Desserts will be needed.

April 16 - Ladies Lunch Out at Wings Etc. in Dexter at 11:30. Note this is one week later than usual due to our Gospel Meeting.

Continued from front:

I've stood in cemeteries and attempted to imagine the moment. The road on which Denalyn and I take our walks is marked by a small country cemetery. The headstones are faded beyond recognition. No dirt has been turned for a century. The few discernible names share a common last name. I assume that a family is buried there. It seems to be just one of the millions of burial spots around the planet. Yet, if these words are true, it will someday witness a miracle beyond words. The same God who shook the soil of Jerusalem will shake the soil of this simple cemetery. The grass will be pushed back from within. The caskets will open, and the bodies of these forgotten farmers will be called into the sky. Spirits will be reunited with bodies, glorified bodies.

The resurrected Jesus is our example. His resurrection body bore a semblance to the crucified one; but only a semblance. Jesus' disciples, who lived with him for three years, didn't recognize him at first. Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18), the Emmaus disciples (Luke 24:13-35), and the twelve (John 21:1-7), saw Jesus but didn't see him as Jesus. He did familiar physical things such as walking and eating. He did things he had done but appeared in a different form.

Were I to look at photos of you as an infant, I would experience the same phenomena. Perhaps, upon study, I would spot a common trait: the shape of your mouth or angle of your eyes, But finding common traits would require focus. You've changed! But not nearly as much as you will; your new body will be so much better. *We shall be like him.* Let the amputees and infected, bed-ridden, and anemic put themselves to sleep with the promise. *We shall be like him.* Let the wheelchair-bound and atrophied take this promise to heart. *We shall be like him.* We shall graduate from this version to his likeness. We shall enjoy a body like his made for heaven and earth.

Let this hope for tomorrow bring you strength for today. Some of you indwell such road-weary bodies: knees ache, eyes dim, skin sags. Others of you exited the womb on an uphill ride. While I have no easy answers for your struggle, I invite you to stand with me on the promise of Paul.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

Max Lucado, via www.heartlight.com