

The Beacon

The Newsletter of Pine Street Baptist Church

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



Maundy Thursday, April 9

On Maundy Thursday the church remembers the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion. Maundy Thursday marks three events in Jesus' last week: his washing of his disciples' feet, his institution of the Lord's Supper, and his new commandment to love one another.

Good Friday, April 10

Good Friday marks the death of Jesus the Christ. It's called "good" because of what Jesus' death means for the redemption of the world.



All the hopes and expectations of Christians are realized in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, making Easter the most celebrated day of the church year.

Waiting for Who Knows What

Most people do not like waiting. We can grow impatient with situations and people if things do not keep moving. So, we end up stuck behind the person in the car in front of us at the toll booth who does not have the right change. We wait for the refund check in the mail, checking the mailbox only to find advertisements and junk mail. We wait for results from the doctor's visit who does not call us with the results on the day they promised.

Someone once said, "Waiting is hard; it often means sitting with the unknown." During the season of Lent and Easter, we often focus on Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified and Easter Sunday, the day Jesus was resurrected. But right there in the middle is a Saturday. What are we to do with Saturday? We may begin to prepare a meal for our Easter dinner. We may join in with a church's Easter egg hunt for children. Maybe we do nothing and just wait for Easter to arrive.

It must have been a long wait after Jesus' crucifixion for his followers. Because of Sabbath law Jesus had been hastily buried after his death. No time for final preparations of the body for burial; that would have to come later. All Jesus' followers could do was wait. But wait for what? They had not yet understood Jesus' words that he would be brought back to life. That was the furthest thing from their minds. Like many grief-stricken individuals they did not know what to do. Wait to live? Wait to die? What do you do when you have nothing to do but wait.

Since the onset of the coronavirus, we have been waiting. Waiting for it to get better or waiting for it to get worse. Waiting for some new medicine to end its challenge to our way of life. Waiting to see people we haven't been able to be with because of social distancing. Waiting for who knows what. In many ways, it feels as though this Lent and Easter season that we are stuck on Saturday. We don't know what will happen next. There is a deep sense of uncertainty that just will not let us go.

As I write these words for our April Beacon, I wonder if we will be able to worship together on Easter Sunday. Will we be able to join our voices together and sing, "Christ the Lord is risen today?" How long will we have to wait before we know where we will be on Easter Sunday? Yet, maybe there is something to be discovered in this time of waiting. Christian writer Barbara Brown Taylor writes in her book *Gospel Medicine* these words, "Our waiting is nothing. It is something -- a very big something -- because people tend to be shaped by whatever it is they are waiting for."

Even as we wait for Easter, even as we wonder if we will worship together on Easter, Easter still shapes us and informs us of who we are. We are an Easter people regardless of what day we find ourselves in. Easter is not a day but a way of life as a follower of Jesus. Easter is what shapes us and forms us and tells us who we are. We wait not in despair but in hope. Hope, because we know the rest of the story that Jesus' followers didn't know the Saturday after his death. We know there will be an empty tomb, an angelic announcement, and an encounter with the risen Lord. This truth is what anchors our hearts during this time of uncertainty in our country and world. God will have the final word and it is a word of hope, love, joy, peace, and life. These are things we hold on to when the world leaves us waiting for who knows what.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2: **Kirsten Guill**
Karmen Holmes
- 3: **Ava Jones**
- 4: **Susan Townsend**
- 5: **Charlotte Blair**
- 7: **Gwen Donohue**
- 8: **Jean Carter**
- 9: **Marguerite Carlson**
- 13: **Bradley Vaught**
- 17: **Caroline Townsend Neal**
- 19: **Clint Jackson**
Sue Downs
- 30: **Glessie Hairfield**

- 12: **Mark and Debbie Thacker**
- 20: **Charlie and Rose Clark**
- 27: **Gail and Ray Tribble**

Celebrate Easter

Christ the Lord is ris'n today,
Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say,
Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Alleluia!

Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply,
Alleluia!

In these unprecedented days of uncertainty, *Waiting for Who Knows What* is an appropriate title for Philip's message to us this month. We are most assuredly waiting for the threat of the coronavirus to be over, and may we do so faithfully, cautiously, and with an awareness of the needs around us. With this in mind, the April Beacon is coming to you knowing that services, ministries, and meetings have been changed, postponed, or cancelled. We will continue to monitor the situation, and will update you with changes as necessary.