



Careline newsletter

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The Resurrection Is The Cure

The Coronavirus pandemic of 2020 has everyone reevaluating, well, everything. We must remember that the ultimate virus is SIN and that Jesus came to bring the cure, Himself. Pastor Dennis explains:

Nothing can take away from the truth and reality of Easter. Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, is the epicenter of HOPE. When God chose this time in history to bring us the Messiah and to write the greatest story ever told, the world was lost and dying and in desperate need.

For the 11 remaining men, the Master, the Hope for the world, the promised Messiah of the Jewish people, and the One whom the disciples had left their lives to follow for three years was lying dead in a tomb. They had walked away from homes, jobs and in many ways their family ties to follow this One. He had called them to drop their fishing nets and to instead learn to become “fishers of men,” and now, He was dead and in the grave. They had most likely banished any sense of hope from their minds. Can you imagine what these guys were thinking as they saw their hope whipped and beaten beyond recognition, hanging on the cross, pierced through with a sword, then taken down, broken, bloody and lifeless, wrapped in a sheet and set in a sealed cold, stone tomb. He was still, lifeless, dead. They probably were thinking “Now what? What do we do now?” Maybe they even worried about what everyone else, family, friends or the rest of the world would think now. I followed a man and basically left all behind and now an empty dream is lying in a borrowed tomb.

Just think about that for a moment. Christ had told them what was going to happen several times, but they did not hear. Why? Because it was not what they wanted to hear. They wanted their Christ to overthrow the Roman Empire and establish a new kingdom. We can see this even after Christ’s resurrection in the book of Acts 1:6 when they asked, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” Even before the crucifixion, we know this is what they had pinned their hope to.

How different are we to them? This is a question I ask myself today. In light of all these things going on all around us, is our hope a little dimmed? We have a virus on the loose, an economy that has gone south, jobs that are on the line, bills that have to be paid, even as a church we can’t assemble. Social distancing is being enforced, grocery store lines, toilet paper shortage, no sanitary wipes, empty shelves in the grocery store., I mean what has the world come to? Where is Christ in all of this, you might be asking? The one thing I can say with assurance is brother and sister in Christ, there is an EMPTY TOMB – because our Savior is risen from grave!” Matt Maher wrote and sings a song Christ is Risen From the Dead. I encourage you to Google it and listen to it. We are on the upside of this life, not the down side. We are free even from the horrors of death, why because we have Christ if we are born again.

As we look around and see all this chaos and panic, let us walk cautiously, but also let us realize we have the antidote to this biggest virus of all, and that is sin. While we may still struggle in areas of our lives with sin until the day we die, we know that HE conquered the ravages of sin, HE made it possible for us to be reunited and reconciled to the Father. All this world can throw at us cannot separate us from that hope because He overcame sin and death when we couldn't. Through Him we have this blessed Hope, (not a wishful thought, but a blessed assurance of a future event)

Let us realize we have a ministry to share this great hope to a lost and hopeless world that only see pestilence, fear and panic. Let us share with passionate compassion! Let's love as Christ did in His example to us before and even during the cross and after the resurrection. We walk not alone; through all this, He is with us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

So, take heart Church! We have the Living Hope in Jesus Christ! Easter is still Easter even if we are still streaming the message and not able to be together physically.

Several things I want to remind you to do!

- 1. Again, if you need something, we are here for you. PLEASE reach out and let us know.**
- 2. You can listen/watch sermons online, go to our web page and push the link it will take you to our facebook link. (You don't have to have a facebook account to watch the live stream.)**
- 3. If you are a facebook user, Like and Share! Like and Share, Like and Share! You can also invite friends and neighbors to a "Watch Party" online—those of you who use facebook know what this means.**
- 4. Use our online giving tab, or type 77977 in your text "TO" line and then text the words CBCSM. You can also give through our CBC app. The church is still functioning, even as we are apart during this time.**
- 5. If we don't have your current information please send it to any staff member.**

Church, know one thing, you are loved by the Lord Jesus Christ and you are loved by your pastor and staff.

We pray for you!

Hang in there – God is still on His throne!

Pastor Dennis

A Letter From Randy & Student Ministry

Hi Church!

I recently listened to a message from Dare2Share called "You Can't Quarantine the Gospel." In light of the COVID19 quarantine and all that is going on right now it is so good to be reminded that the gospel advances on. The good news of Jesus cannot be stopped. The church is not a building, but it is the people of God and we move on in this time.

Matthew 5:13 and 14 reminds us that as Christians we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. This does not stop with the spread of a virus. It continues on and the gospel continues to be the good news that Jesus came to the world seeking after a relationship with us. He lived a perfect life and died in our place for our sins and rose again on the third day. We are about to celebrate this resurrection. Easter will be celebrated whether we can meet together or not. This is a time in history that we as believers can share this good news with those around us.

There are many who are filled with fear right now. As Christians we also experience some fear and caution, but we do not fear as the world because we know who is in control. We know who defeated sin and death. We know what happens after we die. We know that we will be face to face with our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. This is the message we proclaim. It is such good news and is so comforting right now.

As we admit that the gospel cannot be quarantined, we also realize that we can be. Our lives are looking different right now for many people. It is happening all over the world. We are still here though. The church is still here. Calvary Baptist Church is still here and we carry on. I am continuing to meet with the youth and college students during this time. We have been meeting using ZOOM. Many people all over the world are using ZOOM right now. Many may have not even known it existed before this outbreak. I thank God for technology like ZOOM, Facebook, and YouTube right now that has allowed us to continue on. The youth are continuing to meet on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings via ZOOM. If you have not connected with us in this way please get in touch with me so that I can make sure you have the link.

The college students and young adults are meeting using ZOOM on Thursday nights and Sunday mornings as well. I have also done some prayer meetings during the week and I am trying to do some fun things such as picture scavenger hunts. The main thing is that we stay connected during this time of social distancing. Please if there is anything that you need or just need to talk feel free to reach out to me.

I also wanted to let you know that summer events for the youth have not yet been cancelled. We are waiting to hear and watching to see what is going to happen. We are praying that as summer draws near we will see a break in the virus and we will still be able to participate in our summer missions camp. If it does happen to be cancelled we will replace it with something else.

Please know that I am praying for everyone during this time. I encourage you to spend time with Jesus and remember that God is still on the throne.

God Bless,
Randy McDaris, Student Minister

WHO ELSE FEELS CRAZY?

Who else feels a little bit crazy right now? This pandemic has completely changed our day to day living and it can feel overwhelming. Parents are having to make other arrangements for their kids because they still have to work. Most can't work and they are wondering how they are going to pay bills with no money coming in. Kids are now at home 24 hours a day and you're having to cook 3 square meals day in and day out, on top of online school work and everything else. You can feel like a failure, inadequate, and someone who just can't do this. I have seen videos on Facebook showing mom's beating themselves up, and feeling so inadequate and stressed.

I'm here to cheer you on! You CAN do this! We can't give up hope. Our kids are watching how we respond in these moments and in these situations. Thousands of families are having to deal with the changes brought on by the coronavirus. It's our actions through these changes that will teach our kids about the hope and trust we have in Christ. We can't forget that it's important to teach our kids about the love of Jesus and that we need to model this in our own lives. With the hectic craziness around us and people losing their heads, let us not lose ours.

We need to MAKE time for God. It's easy to want to give up and to continue to feel overwhelmed and stressed if we aren't spending time with the Lord and in His Word. As we continue to encourage one another and support one another, we need not to sacrifice our spiritual lives. Don't let fear and panic become part of your household.

Psalms 27: 13-14 says, *"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord."* This text reflects on David's explanation of how he emotionally survived difficult times by leaning on his faith in God. Through out the 150 chapters of Psalms, it deals with every emotion known to man, but to deal with those emotions in relationship to God. They show believers who bare their souls before God as they experience anger, love, fear, anxiety, doubt, shame, worry, and a plethora of other emotions.

Even while we wait, we remind ourselves of the goodness of the Lord. Even as things go wrong, we remind ourselves that God is good all the time and all the time, God is good. As Christians, we remain faithful that our God is able to deliver us from whatever temptations and frustrations we face. As we wait in faith, those who have weathered many storms remind us, "This too shall pass." We are all in this together and we will get through this, together. I am continuing to pray for the kiddos and their families daily.

In Christ,
Sarah Trumbull, Children's Minister

The Heart of Worship

Sanctuary :

1. *a place of refuge or safety.*

"people automatically sought a sanctuary in time of trouble"

2. *a nature reserve. "a bird sanctuary" (NOPE not this one)*

3. *a holy place; a temple or church.*

the inmost recess or holiest part of a temple or church.

the part of the chancel of a church containing the high altar

The word sanctuary might evoke in us instantaneous images, sounds, feeling, memories, and even smells that involve older traditions such as organs or stained glass, and some newer traditions such as production lighting, background images, and contemporary band instruments.

We think of the church sanctuary as a place, a sacred space, a place of worship and connection to God and His people—and well it should be. However, in times like ours, does not having a church sacred space mean we cannot worship? We know the answer to that question is no. We know that scripture teaches us that WE are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The sanctuary of the new covenant is US. (By the way, this is one of the reasons we use "auditorium" more frequently than sanctuary) We know we can worship anywhere, because worship is an attitude of the heart. It is an expression that comes from within and is then demonstrated outwardly. We know this. Yet, when the ability to meet and worship with other believers is suspended, a disorienting and disconnection can come upon us because we

were meant to worship as a people, a holy nation, a gathering. We long for something to which we might have become complacent not so many days and weeks before. Isn't that the way? I know it can be for me.

On stage every Sunday, our band, singers and choir come together to pray before the service and to thank the Lord for the privilege of worshipping in a public house, corporately, united in the Spirit, or something to that effect. How surreal to find ourselves in a position where this now is a luxury? My prayer is that we would not become complacent with the lack of corporate worship—God forbid! (Think of Paul and Silas in prison)

As you gather around the PC, phone, tablet or whatever device helps you stay connected with church family and the sermon, I want to encourage you to sing and to worship the Lord with your whole heart. *"Sing like never before, Oh my soul, and worship His holy name."* It might even seem novel and really fun at first and for a while. It can and probably will get old. However, no matter how long this lasts, the heart of worship is all about Jesus and HE NEVER FADES. *"I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, It's all about You, Jesus."* I encourage you, I challenge you, to find creative ways to express your love, your gratitude, your devotion, your awe, your penance, your WHOLE HEART to our great and merciful God. May we come together and may we be fuller for the experience, more ready to see and commune with one another and to sing like never before! Until we see you face to face...

In Christ,
Rosanna Haddock, Music Minister