



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 58 No. 03

April 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Resurrection Sunday is the first Sunday in April. Why the buzz? The buzz is because the world is pushing harder against the good news of the gospel. The cross and resurrection are a scandal. They are a stumbling block for all who do not believe.

The hope of the Christian faith lies in the meaning of the cross: the victory Jesus won over sin and death for us; confirmed in his being raised from the dead. The resurrection is the *sine qua non* – the “without which not” – of our faith. Paul says it this way,

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The cross remains a scandal because it points to realities the world would like to ignore.

The first reality the world would like to ignore is: there is a holy God who commands our worship. God does not need our worship; he commands our worship for *our* benefit. Worship is the rightful activity of creation because it keeps us in a right relationship with our creator. Sin – and the consequence of sin, death – are a result of forgetting God, disobeying God, and trying to be like God.

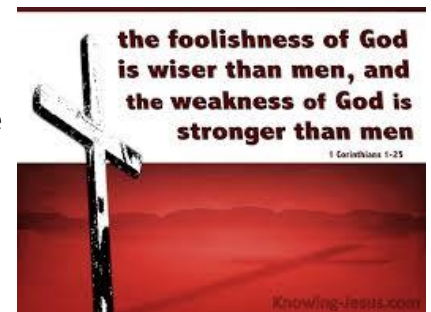
Worship involves glorifying God. As you have heard me mention, the Westminster Shorter Catechism begins with the question, “What is the chief end of man?” Why are we here? The answer: “To glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

Worshipping God means that we do not worship other things: not money, not powerful people, not possessions, not ourselves. All of those other things vie for our attention and our devotion. Scripture makes clear that those things are distractions and experience bears that out. In our most critical times, none of those things make a difference. We do not pray to any of those because we know they are unable to help us; we pray to God because God is able.

The second reality the world would like to ignore is: there is a loving God who acts to deal with our sinfulness. We do not like to think of ourselves as sinful. We prefer to think of ourselves as good, as meaning well, and as people who *deserve* a little grace. Other people – well, they do not deserve grace, they should know better than to do the things that they do.

Sin is a critical issue in our lives. It is critical even if we do not realize it or acknowledge it. It is rebellion against God, it is a refusal to recognize God's sovereignty over us. God will not allow sin to exist eternally. In Romans, Paul talks about God's patience, but it is not a limitless patience. “Do you despise the riches of his

(continues next page)



From the Pastor's Desk

kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed." Romans 2:4-5.

God is not fooled by our rationalizations of why we think it is acceptable that we disobey him. "It was just this once." "It was really important." "I really needed it." "They deserved it." God sees into our heart. God knows our frame. These are things we would like not to see and often choose to ignore. We would be horrified if other people knew what things we held secret in our hearts.

What is remarkable is God deals with our sinfulness. "While we were yet sinners," "while we were still enemies of God," God sent Jesus to deal with the consequences of our disobedience and rebellion. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Instead of destroying us – which God would be justified in doing – he acts to save us. That is grace.

The third reality the world would like to ignore is: there is a powerful God who is willing and capable of defeating evil in his own way. This God who loves us so much as to deal with our sinfulness is powerful enough to defeat evil. He has already conquered the greatest fear for humans: death. Jesus was obedient unto death – even death on a cross – and God raised him from the dead. That's just plain crazy: dead people do not get up.

Scripture tells us that the tomb was empty. Scripture tells us that Jesus actually, bodily, was raised from the dead. Scripture tells us that Jesus ascended into heaven. We bear witness to those truths – those are not myths or metaphors, they are truths.

The cross and resurrection will remain a scandal. It was a scandal then, it remains a scandal today. We can expect continued challenges and claims that it did not happen.

Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (1 Corinthians 1:22-25)

It is with that same foolishness that we boldly proclaim, "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!" May God bless you with wonderful joy through this Easter season.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis

TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR
MAY
 Is April 16
 Send your info / articles / submissions to margo@fpccarsoncity.org

<i>Congregational Giving—General Budget</i>			
2021 Projected			
	Budget Need	Given	Difference
<i>March 14, 2021</i>			
Yr. to Date	\$112,753	\$ 82,968	- \$ 29,785
<u>Current</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	\$ 82,968	\$ 92,288	- \$ 9,320
<u>TO DATE</u>			
<u>ECO Dues</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
	\$ 2,360	\$ 5,200	
THANK YOU, ALL!!			



He is risen! He is risen indeed! Soon we will be exchanging this joyful truth. And this year, in Family Ministries, it seems doubly joyful as we have welcomed children back to in-person Sunday school. What a wonderful time to open up as we study Jesus' road to the cross, his death, and resurrection. Deana Ercanbrack and Kathy Hernandez have opened the nursery for our little ones. They are doing a marvelous job of sharing God's love with babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, while making sure their space is clean and healthy. Karen Klug, teaching the first through third graders has been focusing on making Jesus' love a concrete concept for young minds, and will continue in this vein through April. I have been leading the fourth through sixth graders in a brief study of the Trinity, followed by lessons on Palm Sunday and the Last Supper and the meaning of communion. After that we are going to go through The Story for Kids. Exciting times ahead, and we look forward to seeing your kids, grandkids, neighbors' children, really anyone who's interested, in our classes on Sunday mornings.



On Easter Sunday we will not have Sunday school. This is a special Sunday for families to worship together. The Family Life Center will be open for this service. We will have a special Easter treat for children!



You may have noticed that more people are getting involved in Aunt Betty's Studio. We are having too much fun with this ministry! Pastor Bob's Wednesday Bible study is established and running well. We are all excited to pick up our study of Hebrews after Easter. Dan Skinkis is recording a weekly podcast called "I Have a Story to Tell". In mid-March, Rob and Jenny Scanland had a video chat with Lu Hawley and some of the KLDP staff members. All of this on top of Sunday worship services and Wednesday announcements, plus special side projects, well, there's a variety of ways to be involved. Folks who have volunteered are finding their strengths and learning the ropes. If this is interesting to you, let us know. We promise to guide and teach you.

Last month in this column we dealt with the elements of Lent. This month, I would like to talk a bit about the elements we encounter in the Passion of Christ: the cross, the blood, the grave clothes and the tomb.



Cross - Represents the ultimate form of powerlessness. As Christians, we are called to lay our lives at its feet. Without the cross, there is no solution to our sinfulness, no forgiveness for our rebellion, and no hope for humankind. Where we see power wielded in culture, God sees the lost hearts of men and women struggling to overcome Him. God will not be subdued! His plan is the only answer. The cross is the center of Scripture. It is the vehicle for Jesus' sacrifice. He empties Himself, unlike Adam and Eve. It is a literal fulfillment of the New Covenant between God and His people. The cross shows us the ultimate act of sacrifice and a most horrible death, but it is hope for all humankind since our fall in the Garden of Eden (Genesis). At the cross, the entire world has the opportunity to be reconciled to the Father.

Blood - in the Jewish culture was considered life. The blood of any animal was its life-force. The blood of a sacrificed lamb applied to the lintels of the houses of the Israelites was a sign for the angel of death to Passover their households. The life-blood taken by another (murder) was considered most heinous by God (see Cain and Abel in Genesis). God says to Cain "your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground". Shedding the blood of a spotless lamb for the temple sacrifice was common practice to cleanse the people of God. Before Jesus. The blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, came at great price to redeem God's people from sin. It is in the blood of Jesus that all Christians are unified.

Grave clothes - were strips of linen used to wrap the body and hold the spices that embalmed it following death. In John when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus emerges with the grave clothes still clinging to him. He had to take them off. But when Jesus was resurrected, the grave clothes were carefully folded. It has been said that act indicated He would return. Interestingly, Jesus' head was separately wrapped from his body in his grave clothes. Charles Spurgeon writes that the "napkin" or cloth used for Jesus' head was but a handkerchief and that because His resurrection is the beginning of life everlasting available to all, the Christian will not need the head cloth as every tear has been wiped away by this act of Jesus.

Tomb - One of the most interesting items in this narrative is that of the tomb in which Jesus was laid. Following His crucifixion, Nicodemus of the Sanhedrin and Joseph of Arimathea took his body to embalm it and wrap it in the grave clothes. The tomb itself was one in which no other man had been laid. Also interesting to note that Jesus, who was poor and had to borrow boats to preach in, also needed to be buried in a borrowed tomb. Keep in mind that He took our sins upon Himself in order to free us from them. Christopher Ness, as quoted by Spurgeon indicates that "when Christ was born, he lay in a virgin's womb, and when He died, He was placed in a virgin tomb." Joseph had the tomb prepared for himself and his family, but it was called into use ahead of that. It was a rich man's tomb. Once Jesus' work of salvation was behind Him, God honored it by having Him laid in a costly tomb.

The one thing that I haven't talked about is the stone. The stone in front of the tomb was used to seal up the tomb in order to keep thieves out. It was "rolled" away, or unsealed by either an earthquake or the angels that you read about in the first four Gospels of the New Testament. The significance of a stone in front of the tomb, blocking the way out of it cannot be underrated. Our hearts are as dead as a body in a tomb, unless we allow Jesus to "roll the stone" from our heart. The stone in the Gospel might even be likened to the sin in our heart that prevents Jesus from entering it. Because of the fall in the Garden of Eden, we are all sinners, inherited from our mother, Eve and our father, Adam. Only God can remove the hard heartedness from us. Only through Christ can we experience true freedom, peace, forgiveness and grace. Only He can remove that stone in our hearts and renew us!

As we celebrate this Easter, may we allow Christ to remove our stones of sin, and write His name upon our hearts!

God's Blessings,

Karen

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Choral Groups & Chancel Choir -

Wednesday, 4/7/21 - 7:00 PM - Group II and 7:45 PM - Groups I & IV

Wednesday, 4/14/21 - 7:00 PM - Groups I & IV and 7:45 PM - Groups II & III

Wednesday, 4/21/21 - 7:00 PM - Groups II & III and 7:45 PM - ALL Chancel Choir groups

Wednesday, 4/28/21 - 7:00 PM - ALL Chancel Choir groups

Praise Team -

Thursday, 4/1/21 - 5:45 PM - Warm-up for Maundy Thursday Service (7:00 PM)

Monday, 4/12/21 - 7:00 PM - Sanctuary (regular rehearsal)

Monday, 4/26/21 - 7:00 PM - Sanctuary (regular rehearsal)





EASTER SEASON WORSHIP—Come join in celebrating the Risen Christ!

Maundy Thursday Worship—April 1 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Time of Reflection Opportunity—April 2 between 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Come enjoy unstructured quiet time in the Sanctuary reflecting on God's Love

Easter Worship—April 4 at 10:00 am

Nursery care will be available but there will be no Sunday School for children.

Seating will be in the Sanctuary and Family Life Center.

Masks are required and social distancing protocols will be observed.

March 29 through April 1—8:00 am Passion Gospel Readings will be posted on YouTube

A Note About April Communion:

Because Easter is the first Sunday of April, when Communion would normally be held, Communion will instead be held on April 11.



PENCIL IT IN

ZEPHYR POINT CONFERENCE CENTER WORK DAY

Saturday, May 8, 2021 8 am – 4 pm

We have scheduled a Spring work day at ZP.

Full details to follow in a few weeks.

Contact Grace or Bob Speicher if you would like to join the work group.

By calling the church office 882-1032



ANGEL TREE FOLLOW UP

Our church funded gifts to 50 children of prisoners from Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah this past Christmas. Thank you for doing this.



We originally were only going to do 25, but we thought FPC could do 50 and we did! For next year we have requested that we not do it virtually and have again requested 50 names asking that more names be from Carson City and surrounding areas.

Thank you again!
Sharon Hughes and Dawn Berger



YOUTH TEMPERANCE EDUCATION WEEK April 18-24.

It's a great time to share with youth of all ages about the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco and to educate and them to live a life of abstinence free of these dangers.

Our hope is that youth of all ages in our community will have minds that are clear and unclouded by alcohol and drugs, and illegal substances. Flyers and information will be available in the Narthex. If you would like more information, please contact Susan Kerber Rose at The church office 882-1032

ECO 2021 DUES



First Presbyterian Church's dues for our denomination, ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians), is \$20.00 per member for 2021. Our dues go to help with the Administration of our denomination. They help churches with health, pension and retirement benefits. They also provide training sessions and our Annual Convention. Our mission committee can access information from them in times of disasters as to how we can help and partner with churches in need.

We pay these dues on a monthly basis. Our estimated 2021 total dues will be approximately \$5,300. There is a GRAY envelope in your giving envelop box, in the narthex, or just drop your check in the offering plate with a memo for ECO Dues.

Thank you for helping with this special offering and all of FPC's mission work in 2021.

LIFE CHOICES BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



Do you have a Baby Bottle at home for the Life Choices Campaign? Yes the deadline to return all bottles was March 14th but it is not too late. Please return ALL bottles as soon as you have them filled up or have put a check in your bottle, written to Life Choices. These can be returned any Sunday or to the church office.

Thank you to all who have returned your bottles and to those who are still going to return them. We will have a report in May as to how we did on our goal of receiving \$3000.00 for this mission project to help save babies. I hope all of you got a chance to tour the mobile unit that came to visit us on February 14th. It was impressive.

Thank you from your Mission Committee



Names removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 03-24-2021

Please pray for these families: Names removed for privacy

Missions and missionaries to pray for: The Calvas in Ecuador; the Larsons and KBNR in Brownsville, TX; Ron Woods Resource Center; Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Active-Duty Military in Our Prayers:

Names removed for privacy

Help keep this Active-Duty Military roster as current as possible.

If someone is no longer on active duty and it is appropriate for their name to be removed from this list, please contact Margo in the church office. Likewise, if someone is now on active duty and should be added to the list, let Margo know. Our military deserve all the love, support, and prayers we can give them!



Names removed for privacy



MAKE A NOTE—Because the first Sunday of April is Easter, April Communion will take place on the second Sunday, April 11.

FPC PHOTO DIRECTORY

The new directory is now available online. If you have not picked up a booklet showing how to connect to the app, please pick one up on Sunday or contact the church office for a copy. The directory will still be printed in the same format it has always been (no photos) and will be available in the office but you are now able to access the information without a hard copy.






We still need your photos! Contact the office if you need someone to come to your home or send a jpeg photo to margo@fpccarsoncity.org.





2021



Sunc	Tuesday	Wednesday	1	2	3
			8:00 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's 5:45 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Medatative Drop-in Time in Sanctuary	
10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE Sanctuary/ FLC & Livestream Nursery only 11:30 am Outdoor Fellowship Time 		8:30 am SON Rise Women's Bible Study contact office for this week's location 5:30 & 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's 9:00 am Grace Notes 6:30 pm Pastor's Study Group TBA 7:00 pm & 7:45 pm Choral Rehearsals 		10:00 am Memorial Service José Paz
10:00 am COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE Sanctuary/ FLC & Livestream Nursery / Sunday School Grades 1-6 11:30 am Deacons Meeting - FH	7:00 pm Praise Team	8:30 am SON Rise Women's Bible Study contact office for this week's location 5:30 & 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's 9:00 am Grace Notes 6:30 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:00 pm & 7:45 pm Choral Rehearsals	8:00 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's 	OFFICE CLOSED MAY TRUMPET DEADLINE
10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE Sanctuary/ FLC & Livestream Nursery / Sunday School Grades 1-6		8:30 am SON Rise Women's Bible Study contact office for this week's location 5:30 pm Session Meeting	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's 9:00 am Grace Notes 6:30 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:00 pm & 7:45 pm Choral Rehearsals	8:00 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallards 	OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE Sanctuary/ FLC & Livestream Nursery / Sunday School Grades 1-6	7:00 pm Praise Team	8:30 am SON Rise Women's Bible Study contact office for this week's location	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's 9:00 am Grace Notes 6:30 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:00 pm Choral Rehearsal	8:00 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's	OFFICE CLOSED 

FH=Fellowship Hall

FLC=Family Life Center

For more information about Bible Study Groups, please contact the church office 882-1032

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE TRUMPET

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 115 N. Division St.

OFFICE

306 West Musser Street
 Carson City, NV 89703
 775-882-1032
 fax 775-882-8095

The Rev. Bob Davis
 pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

Worship Services

10:00 AM

Webpage

www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to margo@fpccarsoncity.org and may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by Connie Stanton.

This Month's Sermons

April 1	Maundy Thursday Worship	7:00 PM
April 4	Easter Worship	10:00 AM
April 11	"Who, Me?"	Genesis 12:1-9
April 18	"Imperfect People"	Genesis 12:10-17
April 25	"Raise Your Eyes"	Genesis:13-1-18

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 "Like" us on

