

SPECIAL EDITION



EASTER 2024



I+HOPE
CHURCH SHAW
Building Faith Sharing Love

ELDERS MESSAGE

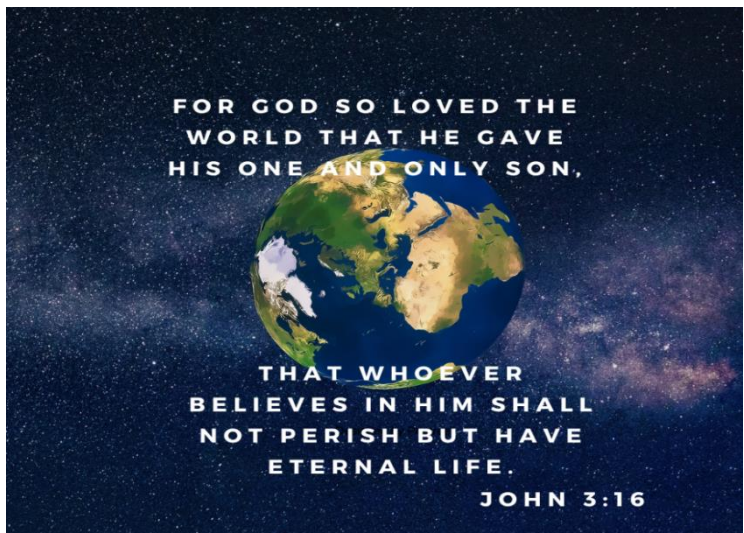
As we approach Easter at the end of the month we will be celebrating and rejoicing in the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead and is alive for ever more. But for many, Easter just means chocolate eggs and Easter bunnies. If that's all it is to you then you are missing the greatest message in the whole of creation. For the message of Easter tells us that Jesus, the one and only Son of God, lived a perfect life on earth without sin and then by the eternal plan of His Heavenly Father he offered himself up to pay the penalty for the sin of the whole world. His sacrifice was so completely perfect that death could have no grip on Him and on the third day He rose from the dead.

We don't have a dead Saviour because Jesus is now alive and is sitting at the right hand of His Father and He offers us today full forgiveness when we come to Him in repentance and faith.

I pray that this Easter you will see beyond the chocolate and see Jesus as your living Saviour and trust Him. Have a great Easter and enjoy your time with your family.

God bless

Dave



Guide to Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



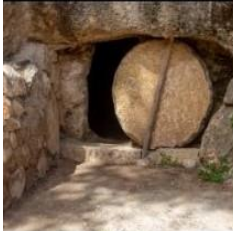
Maundy Thursday

Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Most solemn day of the year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



Holy Saturday

Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.

THE 4 'R'S

By Jan Collins

KEEP IT SIMPLE

To help us think about our possessions,

It is helpful to bear in mind the 4 'R's. Reduce, Reject, Recycle, Repair.

Reduce

The basic message is - buy less.

Buying less means less packaging, less expense, less clutter, less to worry about.

Reject

Get rid of everything you don't need, including all the stuff in the attic.

We have too many possessions that are neither beautiful or useful.

Recycle

We must recycle as much as possible, newspapers, tins, glass, cardboard, clothes.

Look for recycled products from environmentally sustainable sources.

Repair

Many products sold in the west have built in obsolescence. They are not made to last.

That's because the manufacturers want us to buy a new one.

If it can be repaired and restored, then do it!

TESTIMONY

OUR MOLLY by Jan Collins

This is a testimony of how God answered the most random prayer that I prayed one morning. After going through chemotherapy, I asked myself, what is the one thing that I'd like to do with my life that I can enjoy?

After being diagnosed with cancer it really makes you value your life and brings you to a place of seeking to do something that you've always wanted to do but haven't. A bit like a 'bucket list' I guess. So, as I was recovering, I knew that one thing I would like to do. That one thing was to have a dog.

Now, that's not easy as there are so many breeds to choose from and we had previously had some difficult dogs in the past. They were all rescue dogs so I knew I didn't want to go through that again. So, one morning I very bravely told Dave that I wanted a dog. That was met with a very sure "no way!!!". For once, I didn't argue my case but accepted it as I knew it was a huge commitment and quite scary. So, I decided to pray about it, and it was the type of prayer where I just prayed and left it with God. My words were "if you want us to have a dog you will have to drop it on our doorstep". That was because I knew Dave would never go through the task of seeking out the right dog. I told was Hannah but no one else.

To cut a long story short Elaine McDaid approached me one Sunday "I hear your looking for a dog!", she said. To which I replied that I was. Elaine knew of someone trying to re-home a Labradoodle. I immediately responded and we followed it up. Her name was Molly and looked perfect. Elaine assured me that Molly was 'perfect and so well behaved'. The reason her owners were wanting to re-home her was because their other dog was quite old and might not live too long. That would mean that Molly would be on her own while they were at work. We arranged to meet her. In the meantime, Molly's owners (Sally and Ian) decided they wanted to keep her. I was gutted but continued to pray into it.

It was then suggested that we could perhaps look after her during the week so that she didn't spend too much time alone. That was what happened, and she is the most gorgeous dog anyone could have.

At 7.30am Molly is dropped off by Ian on his way to work and picks her up the following day on his way home. That is what happens every week and it makes me smile and thank God for answering my prayer for Molly. We sometimes have her for longer especially when Sally and Ian are on holiday.



So, the moral of the story is – nothing is too small to ask God for. My words were quite bold and definite in that I wanted the dog to be dropped off at our doorstep. Even Dave loves her and so glad we were sent our lovely Molly.

BOOK NOOK

Forgotten God

Reversing our tragic neglect of the Holy Spirit

By Francis Chan

Book review by Hannah Evans

“...what if you grew up on a desert island with nothing but the Bible to read? Imagine being rescued after twenty years and then attending a typical evangelical church. Chances are you’d be shocked (for a whole lot of reasons, but that is another story). Having read the Scriptures outside the context of contemporary church culture, you would be convinced that the Holy Spirit is as essential to a believer’s existence as air is to staying alive. You would know that the Spirit led the first Christians to do unexplainable things, to live lives that didn’t make sense to the culture around them, and ultimately to spread the story of God’s grace around the world.

There is a big gap between what we read in Scripture about the Holy Spirit and how most believers and churches operate today. In many modern churches, you would be stunned by the apparent absence of the Holy Spirit in any manifest way. And this, I believe is the crux of the problem.

If I were Satan and my ultimate goal was to thwart God’s Kingdom and purposes, one of my main strategies would be to get churchgoers to ignore the Holy Spirit. The degree to which this has happened (and I would argue that it is a prolific disease in the body of Christ) is directly connected to the dissatisfaction most of us feel with and in the church.” (Emphasis added)

This is an excerpt from a book I recently read called “Forgotten God” by Francis Chan. At the time of me reading it, it seemed to coincide perfectly with what was being taught through our Sunday sermon series on the Holy Spirit and, later, the teaching of what it means to be the authentic body of Christ. I have been needfully challenged in recent months, to strip back what I know and have experienced for many years to be “normal”

church life, and to look solely at what God's word says about how we should live out our Christian walk. As the author highlights in the introduction of this book, there is a big gap between the two and it is a widespread and prolific problem in the modern day church and the lives of many believers. The author helpfully challenges and encourages the reader to give back to the Holy Spirit, His rightful place of prominence in our lives. I found the book to be well balanced, addressing both ends of the spectrum when it comes to Christians' beliefs about the Holy Spirit. I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to reinforce what we have been learning and seeking together as a church, a greater and ever-increasing experience of the Holy Spirit's presence and power in our lives.



Jesus rose to life

If Jesus be dead, in the grip of a tomb,
There'd be nothing for us but fear and doom.
Life would be sad, with no way to cope.
Death would reign all, without any hope.

If Jesus be dead, in the grip of a tomb,
We'd have no future, only dark and gloom.
No life after death, no eternity in sight,
No hope, no joy, no Saviour, no light.

But....

(And aren't we thankful there is a "but")

But thanks be to God, Jesus rose to life.
The debt all paid, though sin was rife.
His body lay in the tomb three days,
Then up from the grave his life was raised.

Yes, thanks be to God, Jesus rose to life.
He conquered death, all sin and strife.
To those who believe, from death set free.
With hope, with joy, their Saviour to see.

A poem by John R. Cross

EASTER

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

– Martin Luther King Jr.

"Christ the Lord is risen today, sons of men and angels say. Raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, ye heavens and earth reply."

– Charles Wesley

**"Easter is very important to me.
It's a second chance."**

– Reba McEntire

"A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act."

– Mahatma Gandhi

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Let talk about the 2004 American epic biblical drama film produced, directed, and co-written by Mel Gibson.

Music by John Debney, Produced & Distributed by Icon Productions

The file focuses on the final 12 hours before Jesus Christ's death, known as "the Passion".

Covering key events starting with the agony in Gethsemane, continues with the betrayal of Judas Iscariot, the brutal Scourging at the Pillar, the suffering of Mary as prophesied

by Simeon, the crucifixion and death of Jesus, and ends with a brief depiction of his resurrection. The narrative is interspersed with moments in Jesus's life, such as The Last Supper and The Sermon on the Mount, and moments of Jesus' early life.



The film was mostly shot in Italy. The dialogue is entirely in reconstructed Aramaic, Hebrew, and Latin.

Mel Gibson reportedly warned Jim that the character would be very difficult and that to accept, he could be marginalized in Hollywood. Caviezel asked for a day to think about it and his response was: "I think we have to do it, even if it's hard." "And one more thing, my initials are J. C. and I'm 33 years old. I hadn't realized it until now."

Mel responded with a candid, "You're scaring me."



During production, Jim Caviezel (playing Jesus) lost 45 pounds, was struck by lightning, accidentally whipped twice, leaving a 14-inch scar, dislocated his shoulder and suffered pneumonia and hypothermia from hanging

almost naked on a cross for several hours outside. His body was so stressed and exhausted from playing the role that he had to undergo 2

open heart surgeries after the production. The crucifixion scene alone took 5 weeks out of the 2 months of filming.

“I don’t want people to see me. I just want them to see Jesus. Through that, conversions will happen” Jim said. Almost like an advertisement, many strange things happened, Pedro Sarubbi who played Barrabas, when playing that part felt that it wasn't Caviezel who looked at him but Jesus Christ himself. “His eyes had no hatred or resentment towards me, only mercy and love.” Luca Lionello, the artist who played Judas was a declared atheist before filming began. He eventually converted, confessed and baptized his children. One of the tech chiefs who was Muslim also converted to Christianity. Some producers claimed to have seen some people dressed in white giving advice, who at the end of the recordings did not reappear.

The Passion of the Christ is the highest-grossing U.S. film of all time, with \$370.8 million! Worldwide it raised \$612 million. It is the highest-grossing (inflation unadjusted) Christian film of all time, as well as being the highest-grossing independent film of all time.

Mel Gibson paid \$30 million production costs plus another \$15 million in marketing costs out of his own pocket for the film because no studio would take care of the project.

Jim Caviezel proudly proclaims his faith in Christ in the midst of Hollywood ungodliness. People like him who will step forward to do what may not sound “fun,” but which conveys God’s Word and the story of His salvation to mankind.”



A sequel movie possibly entitled THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST: RESURRECTION has a release date of 2025 and will be release over multiple parts. Production for this film will begin in the very near future.

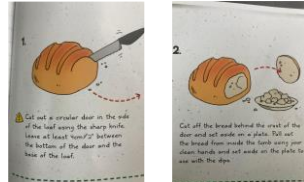
Empty Bread Tomb Recipe

By Caleb Evans

Taken from Bake through the Bible

EQUIPMENT AND INGREDIENTS

- Sharp knife
- Mixing bowl
- Wooden spoon
- Food processor / blender
- 2 small play figures (LEGO mini figures)
- 1 round loaf of bread



METHOD

1. Cut out a circular door in the side of the loaf using a sharp knife. Leave at least 4 cm between the bottom of the door and the base of the loaf.
2. Cut off the bread behind the crust of the door and set aside on a plate. Pull out the bread from inside the tomb using clean hands and set aside on the plate to use with the dips.

THE DIPS

GUACAMOLE

What you need:

- 2 avocados halved and stones removed
- 1 small red onion finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic crushed
- 1 ripe tomato
- 1 lime juiced



INSTRUCTIONS

Scoop out the avocado from the skin using a fork. Add all the other ingredients and mix well.

Season with salt and pepper.

SOUR CREAM DIP

What you need:

- 200ml / 1 cup sour cream
- 100ml / ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ teaspoon mustard
- 2 drops Worcestershire sauce



INSTRUCTIONS

Put all the ingredients into a bowl and mix well. Season with salt and pepper.

TRUSTING GOD RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE

By Jan Collins

But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in You - Psalm 56:3

Each day brings fresh opportunities and possibilities for us to trust God. We can think ahead today and in the coming weeks and months of what might or not might happen and fear can easily grip us. We can face some scary circumstances and we are then having to manage our doubts, tremblings and fears. When these times happen, we need to fall into the arms of our God and rest.

There is a song that I love by Casting Crowns called 'Just be Held'. There are many circumstances that we cannot control but we still try to work things out ourselves. What are some of the things that grip up: - Financial trials, relationship issues, sickness, loss and difficult family matters. We can be paralysed by "what if's" and "why's". We all go through difficult seasons and trials. Times when we want to see the invisible arms of the one who says he will catch us to 'Just hold us'. Be still and know that I am God is a well-known verse but how hard is it to 'just be still'.

Wherever you go and whatever you face, God is with you – yesterday, today and forever. The Lord bids us to Live by Faith and not by Sight – 2 Corinthians 5:7. He wants us to trust Him.

Today, whatever you are going through try and 'fall into the arms of the one who knows your struggles and will help you overcome fear and the unknown future. It might be scary. Tears might be shed, but God is faithful and can be trusted. Like the Psalmist, let's choose to say – "But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. I praise God for what He has promised, I trust God, so why should I be afraid?" Psalm 56:3-4

When we fall from our struggles into the faithful arms of God, we break free from the fears that paralyse us.

Trust Him today, tomorrow and forever!

Trust in God to cover the things out of your control, concentrate on the things in your control.

Whatever you go through God is with you.

‘Just Be Still’



WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Our **Sunday** Services start each week with Prayer in the office at 9.45 am. All Welcome to this very important time before our service which starts at 10.30 am. There is also opportunity for prayer during the service. We serve refreshments in the Cafe area after the service. Creche facilities available.

Monday 9 am to 12 noon. The Church is open for prayer. Come when you can between these times and stay for as long, or as little as you can. Come and seek God together as He calls us to commit everything we do to Him. Philipians 4 v5-7

Tuesday Evening at 8 pm on Zoom is the Elders Meeting. Please pray for them as they lead us Spiritually. Also, once a month is a combined Elders and Deacons meeting where the more practical things are discussed.

Wednesday is our life Groups. For the immediate future we will be meeting together at church at 7.30pm for worship and prayer. Come and join with us as the body of Christ joins together in prayer.

Thursday is Coffee Morning that starts at 10 am till 12noon, there is prayer available after the coffee time.

Friday is our Youth Fellowship. This isn't every week, the dates will be issued every month.

Saturday once a fortnight (monthly during winter) is our Outreach Event into Shaw. We meet in church at 1.30pm for worship and prayer. At 3pm we meet up again for coffee (or tea), cake and a chat. See Noticeboard for dates.

WHO'S WHO

ELDERS –

Dave Collins, Emmanuel Oyowe, John Warner

DEACONS –



Nahum Evans, Worship Leader

Karen Monks, Sunday School

Brian McDaid, Love in Action



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Karen Monks and Comfort Oyowe

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ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: -

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