TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader / Opening Prayer by: Ken Coleman
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#535 The Glory-Land Way
#508 A Wonderful Savior

Scripture Reading by: Matthew Girard
#509 I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

Communion Devotional by: Robert Ward
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#480 Blessed Assurance
Sermon "Living Thoughtfully"
Philippians 4:8-9

#947 Jesus Is Tenderly Calling
#523 I Know the Lord Will Find a Way
Closing Prayer by: Craig Girard

Our Small Groups will meet tonight.
Robert Ward's group will meet at the building at 5:00 p.m.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 5:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

Apr. 28, 2024

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Save the Date

Someone asked me a few days ago, "why is it that Easter does not always fall on the Passover?" After all, we know Jesus was crucified on the week of Passover—it would make sense if the annual observance of his resurrection, which occurred three days later, was celebrated at the same time.

Without going too far down the historical rabbit hole, the short answer is that after a couple of centuries of increasing distance between early Christianity and Judaism, there was a sense that the date need not be tied to the Jewish calendar. The Jewish calendar is lunisolar, heavily dependent on the phases of the moon, while the predominantly Gentile church operated on a solar year, just as we continue to do today. So it was logical to fix the date to the calendar in common use—though where, exactly, to establish it was a matter of some controversy. Finally, at the Council of Nicaea in 325 it was set as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. More often than not, that falls on Passover; sometimes, as this year, it is quite a bit off. (And to make it even more confusing, in the Eastern Church the date is calculated the same, but based on the Julian Calendar rather than the Gregorian, which is why you might see "Eastern Orthodox Easter" or the like written on your calendar occasionally—it is not until May 5th this year!)

But this got me to thinking about what Passover and Easter have in common, among other things: remembering. The ability to remember is a wonderful gift that God has given to us. Over the years, I have talked often about this at funeral services—memorial services—that I have officiated. But God is also aware of the fact that, sometimes, we forget. When that happens, he has given us reminders to help jog our memory.

He promised Noah he would never destroy all life in a flood again. Then God stated, "*I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth*" **(Gen 9:13)**. Every time we see a rainbow, it serves as a reminder of God's promise.

Or consider a story from **Joshua 4** as the Israelites prepared to enter the Promised Land. They came to the Jordan at flood stage, uncertain of how to cross it. God instructed Joshua to have the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant into the middle of the river; when they did that, the water stopped flowing, and the people crossed on the dry ground. But in the process, God commanded one man of each tribe to gather a rock from the riverbed in order to make a monument. *When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever* **(Josh 4:6-7).**

There are special days and times in Scripture designed to help us remember specific events. Let's consider 3 that are especially meaningful. We know the stories behind each one of these, but see how God jogs our memories and calls us to remember important things.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Blanca Sanchez, Claudia Girard's mother, had a stroke and was in the hospital.

Oscar Cantu will be having surgery on Wednesday, May 1st.

Janie Prather will be having surgery on Monday, April 29th.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Jo Ella McKewen, Kelly McCain, Wayne Noonkester, Oscar Cantu, Rickey Lucas, Jennifer Stelly, Kevin Coleman, Cathy Stifflemire, Ken Coleman, Dr. Hugo Thomas, Gayle Coleman

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis, Debbie Merritt

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique , Rod Kyle in the South Pacific, Mani Pagidopali in India

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday, April 29th at 5:30 p.m..

We are working a new Friends and Family directory. A copy of the old one has been placed on the bulletin board. Please check your name, address, phone number and email to make sure it is correct.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, May 7th at 8:00 a.m.

Graduating High School Seniors

Matthew Girard and Joseph Girard are our two graduating High School Seniors. We will be honoring them on Sunday, May 19th. We will have a meal after morning service.

Food Bank

We served 161 families on Thursday, April 18th at our food bank. That equals to 532 individuals. We had 20 volunteers.

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Zach Arthur	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Daniel Balch	
Don Taylor	Danny Balch	
Robert Ward	Walden David	
	Gus Tristan	

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The Feast of Passover

The Israelites had been sojourners and then slaves in Egypt for over 400 years. Then God called Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the people go. Moses complied, but Pharaoh refused to listen. So to reinforce his demand, God sent plague after plague upon Egypt, finally culminating in the death of the firstborn.

But before he did that, God gave instructions to the Israelites: each family was to choose a year-old lamb without spot or blemish, kill it, drain its blood into a basin, and roast it. They were to take the blood and spread it around the doorframe of the house, so that the Lord would pass over them when he struck the households of the Egyptians. God did everything that he said he would do, and as a result, the Egyptians set them free. And that is why the Passover was to be celebrated. *This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast* **(Exodus 12:14).**

The Lord's Supper

The night before his crucifixion, Jesus met with his disciples to celebrate the Passover—to remember, as God had commanded them long ago. But as they ate, Jesus gave them something new and greater to remember. *[T]he Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"* **(1 Cor 11:23-25).**

The Passover meal was no longer to be a reminder of release from Egyptian bondage; now the bread and cup were to be eternal reminders of the new thing God had done in Christ, who is our Passover lamb without spot or blemish, taking away our sins (**1 Cor 5:7; 1 Pet 1:19; Jn 1:29).**

The Day of Assembly

We meet to eat this meal together on the first day of the week. The Jews had a day set aside for remembrance every week: the Sabbath, a day for rest commemorating God's consecration of it at Creation. In a similar way, the first day celebrates God's action in the resurrection of Jesus. That's when the earliest Christians met to encourage one another and worship God.

In the book of Revelation, John speaks of this as the *Lord's Day* **(Rev 1:10).** And so it is that we assemble on the Lord's Day to eat the Lord's Supper and corporately worship.

We have so much to remember, in all aspects of life. But it is especially true in our spiritual lives. Let's not forget the faithfulness God always exhibits toward his people. Let's not forget to come together to worship him. And when we do, let us especially remember what God has down for us in Christ: the sacrifice that calls us together and the resurrection that guarantees our own.

Bryant Perkins