



Faith Christian Assembly

April Newsletter

April 1, 2023

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He Poured Out His Soul Unto Death [Is. 53:12] *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have turned the calendar to the month when we celebrate the two greatest events in human history, Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. I love this quote from Billy Graham, "The cross shows us the seriousness of our sin, but it also shows us the immeasurable love of God."

Last year we made the decision to have a Good Friday service, and we will again this year, Friday, April 7 - @ 12noon. This is a meaningful experience where we take our time through the

use of Scripture and music to reflect back upon all that Christ has done for us. I feel that there are times when we might be too quick to get to "Up from the Grave He Arose" that we fail to linger "At the Cross" where Jesus died. John Piper reminds us that, "God has done astonishing and costly things to draw us near."

In Gethsemane...

Luke 22:44,

And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to

the ground.

C.S. Lewis — "In Gethsemane the holiest of all petitioners prayed three times that a certain cup might pass from Him. It did not."

May we consider the humility that led to Jesus' obedience...

Philippians 2:8, ...He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

In light of the cross - How do I follow Him?

~Continued page 2

With God... *by Earlene Leming*

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."
Luke 1:37

Recently I've remembered a simple prayer my Grandmother often spoke over us: "Be healed from the top of your head to the tip of your toes!" Matthew 8:5-9 is about the authority of God's Word. Be encouraged from an ancient commentary by Bishop Homily, page 85, titled "ONLY SAY THE WORD".

"Lord, my servant is paralyzed, in bed and suffering greatly. Even though he is a slave, do not look at the lowliness of the slave, but rather at the greatness of the evil." This is what the Centurion said. And what did Jesus say? "I will come and heal him. I came for the sake of all men. I will heal him" The Centurion continued, "Only say the word and my servant will be healed of this evil, for I have soldiers under me.

I say to one, "Go!" and he goes; to another, "Come!" And he comes. In this way I have known the authority of Your power. I see the armies of healings. I see the ranks of miracles awaiting Your orders. Send them against the sickness, Send them just as I send a soldier." Jesus was astonished and said, "I have not found such great faith in Israel."

He Poured Out His Soul *continued from page 1*

Matthew 16:24, "But Jesus Himself spoke this way about following Him when He said, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'"

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

by Paul Gerhardt

O sacred head now wounded

With grief and shame weighed down

Now scornfully surrounded, With thorns thine only crown

How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn

How does that visage languish, Which once was bright as morn

What language shall I

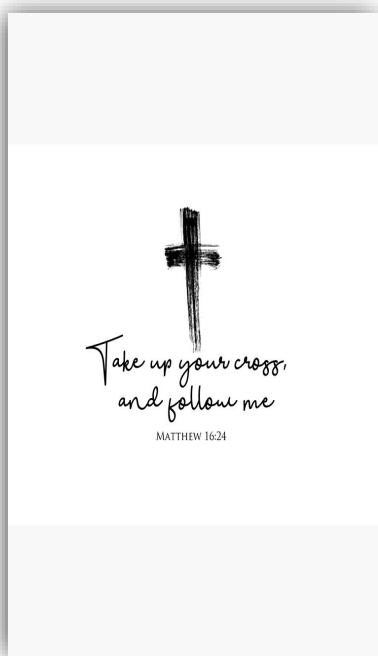
borrow, To thank thee, dearest Friend

For this, thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?

Oh, make me thine forever, And should I fainting be

Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love to thee

~ Pastor Sheri



April Calendar

SUNDAYS

Service Times:

10:30am and

5:30pm

Pre-service prayer

5:00 pm

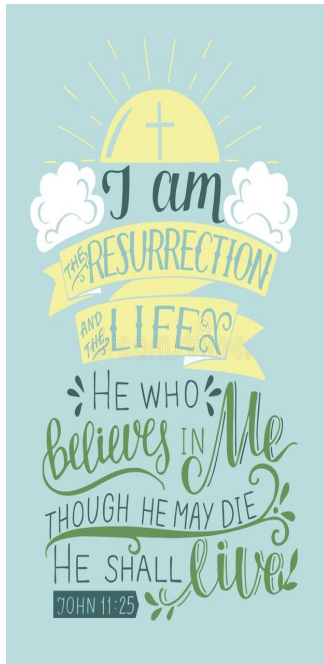
April 2 – Communion service

10:30 am/Palm Sunday

April 9– Easter Sunday

April 9 and 16 -

NO EVENING SERVICE



MONDAYS

Office Closed

TUESDAYS

Church Office/Library Hours

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Call for appointment

WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study 11:00 am

April 5 no Bible Study-join us for Good Friday service on April 7

THURSDAYS

April 20 - 1:00 pm Men's Ministry meeting

April 20—1:00 pm Touch of Love Women's Ministry meeting

FRIDAYS

April 7—Good Friday

Service 12:00 pm

Church Office Hours

10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Call for appointment

The Gift of God ~ by Rose Seeley

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJ

Have you ever been offered a gift but didn't accept it? Maybe not, but we still know that a gift is not ours until we accept and receive it. You might think that rejecting a gift is at the least inappropriate and maybe even rude. The rejection surely

wouldn't feel good to the giver who often has put thought, time and finances into the gift. And when it's from a loved one there's certainly a good measure of heart in it as well.

And yet, there are many in our own personal worlds who have been offered the priceless gift, and don't even truly understand what a gift it is or that it's even been offered. The WORLD has been given the most gen-

erous gift of all (John 3:16) the sacrifice of Jesus who died on a cross and rose from the grave in order to take the punishment that we should have received for our sins! This is the gift of God – who is in your world that hasn't yet received it?

April 9 is Resurrection Sunday, and a perfect time to extend an invitation to someone in your world who maybe has never heard the Good

News and/or never attended a church service. I've read that the majority of people come to church for the first time because they were invited. But only 2% of church members actually invite unchurched people to church. In a recent survey, 82% of unchurched people polled said that they were likely to attend church if invited. It's time to be an inviter!



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Faith Christian Assembly is a member of the Grace International Churches and Ministries, Inc., which was originally organized as the California Evangelistic Association in 1934. Beginning with one church, Colonial Tabernacle, located in Long Beach, CA the organization has since grown to include more than 4400 churches in the United States as well as in many nations of the world. It is now headquartered in Houston, TX, and overseen by an Executive Team and a Board of Directors, including as President Pastor Steve Riggle. Pastor Sheri Leming serves on the Grace International Missions Board and on the Grace SoCal District Committee.

From the Desk of Pastor Sheri Leming ~ April 1, 2023

Spring has arrived! We may not have believed it would come, but here it is! We Californians are blessed to feel the warmth of the sun so frequently. It seems we don't know what to do when it is dark and rainclouds fill the sky. Thinking about this brings my thoughts to Easter. How blessed we truly are that the Son of Righteousness obediently went to the cross and endured the crucifixion to bring us salvation! Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:15)

We invite you to join us as we celebrate our Lord's death, burial, and resurrection this month. We will once again have a Good Friday service, April 7 at 12 noon. And then we will celebrate Resurrection Sunday, April 9 at

10:30am. (There is no evening service that day).

Please keep us in prayer as we travel to Houston for our Grace International Conference. This is always such a special time to gather with other ministers and celebrate the goodness of God and the advancement of His Kingdom in His church.

Please pray for all of our pastors and missionaries as many travel quite a distance.

Please be sure to join us this first Sunday of April for our 10:30am service as we partake in Holy Communion together. This is such a set apart time to partake together and in this way we obey Jesus command to, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Please join us for pre-service

prayer this Sunday at 5pm, before our 5:30pm Sunday Evening Service.

John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'" ~ Billy Graham

Looking forward to Sunday,
Pastor Sheri and Gary
Leming