

HEART-TO-HEART

We are reminded that Christ is in our hearts and we are in His and that love connects us all in unity.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3



The Good News

In April we celebrate Easter Sunday. But what is “Easter Sunday” and why do we celebrate it? Easter Sunday signifies the day that Jesus rose from the dead. And why is that important? Jesus’ death and resurrection is part of God’s redemptive plan for mankind.

Because of Jesus’ sacrifice eternal life is granted to everyone who believes in Him. Also, his resurrection provided proof that Jesus was who He claimed to be - the Son of God.

What is the relationship between Easter Sunday and the “good news?” Gotquestions.org provides an excellent response, “the gospel is the ‘good news’ because it contains the exceedingly wonderful message of God’s redemption of sinful humanity through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. The gospel is the heart, the central core of Christian preaching.”

As we celebrate Easter Sunday, let us remember with gratitude the good news and Jesus’ wonderful gift to all of us - eternal life, hope and love.

IN THIS ISSUE

A Thousand Times

Spring Banquet 2025

It’s Strange

A Thousand Times

by Alli Oshiro

Have you ever received such bad news that the only natural response is to cry? I'm sure you have, we all have! I recently received bad news. Sad, confused, and overwhelmed are just a few words I'd use to describe how I've been feeling. And to be perfectly honest, I didn't even want to go to the Lord. I was angry and just wanted to isolate—hide away from everyone, that's how I will get through this. It was hard to pray, I only wanted to cry. It was hard to read, I just felt frustrated and annoyed. In my mind I knew the One who would provide the most comfort would be God but I just didn't want to turn to Him. I share this because I wonder if anyone else can relate to this feeling.

I am grateful that unlike mankind, God doesn't get offended, even when we reject Him or try to run away. Despite my avoiding Him, He reached out to me. We were driving one night when a song came on the radio, *A Thousand Times* by We are Messengers. The chorus got my attention, it goes like this, "You can count on that, you know what He's like, you've seen Him do it a thousand times. Even in the dead of night, there's never been a morning when the sun don't rise. He'll never let go, you know that it's true, He's still that good and He's still got you. You can count on that, you know what He's like, you've seen Him do it a thousand times." I immediately felt as though God had wrapped His arms around me. The way Jason and I do when the kids are so unbearably frustrated all they can do is cry and pout. He gently and quietly spoke, "I am here." It was as if the flood gates had opened and I could release the anger and sadness.

Listening to the song, I was reminded of Lamentations 3:21–25 that says, "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him."

While it's widely assumed that Jeremiah is the author of the book of Lamentations, it's not explicitly stated. What we do know is that the author was someone who survived the destruction of Jerusalem and was exiled to Babylon. This book is his reflection on the pain and suffering of the Israelites that followed the fall of their city. He includes both personal and collective grief. Yet despite this despair he remembers God's love and mercy. It seems an appropriate reflection for us as well as we enter the Easter season. It is no coincidence that the foundation of our faith was built upon the lament of God for mankind, made complete through the lament of Jesus as He moved toward the cross. This lament that is so utterly relatable to us all. It is in this lament we learn how to have hope.

There is a line in the song that says, "He made His mercies new, cause He knew we'd forget all the things He's done and just how good He is. He's a faithful God, every word is true and He always does just what He says He'll do." During Easter we are compelled to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and triumph over death; yet let us never forget the season of lament that brought us to His glorious light. Lamenting is a critical part of our walk with Christ, something we should never ignore, escape, or avoid. Lament is how we bind our heart to God, when in our deepest despair, He is the only One who can reach us.



And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?

Oh no, You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go
In every high and every low
Oh no, You never let go
Lord, You never let go of me

You Never Let Go
by Matt Redman

Spring Banquet 2025

This year Spring Banquet 2025 was held on March 29, 2025. It was a fun time of fellowship. Hope to see you all next year!



Life without friendship is like the sky without the sun, a bird without a song, or a plant without a flower. Friendship is sunlight to the soul. It warms our hearts and brightens our days. It is a gift of infinite worth.

Willy Nywening

It's Strange

This was posted by Steve Patterson (courageouschristianfather.com); the actual author is unknown. You may find it interesting.

- It's strange how twenty dollars seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping.
- It's strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie.
- It's strange that you can't find words to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend.
- It's strange how difficult it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read a popular novel.
- It's strange how everyone wants front-row tickets to concerts, but they want to sit in the last row at Church.
- It's strange how we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute.
- It's strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God and share it with others, but it's easy to repeat gossip.
- It's strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say, but we question the words in the Bible.
- It's strange how we send jokes in e-mails and they are forwarded right away, but when we are going to send messages about God, we think about it twice before we share it with others.
- It's strange how everyone wants a place in heaven, but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there.



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Things that make you go hmmm.....

*Please feel free to contact:
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about this newsletter or to
submit an article.*