

First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 910 N WASHINGTON AVE
LIVINGSTON, TX 77351 | APRIL 2021

A GRAND ENTRANCE

Decades ago, as English actress Gertrude Lawrence waited behind the curtain for a play to begin, the queen upstaged her by arriving at the royal box to much applause. "What an entrance," Lawrence remarked, to which her friend, playwright Noel Coward, replied, "What a part!"

Jesus certainly made a grand entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, entering to adoring shouts of "Hosanna!" But worldly glory and fame weren't his intent. Instead, our Lord knew that his Father had prepared a sacrificial role for him. Jesus handled the adulation with dignity and poise. The

humble yet courageous Son of God knew that danger, despair and death awaited — but that he must endure it all to fulfill prophecy for humanity's sake.

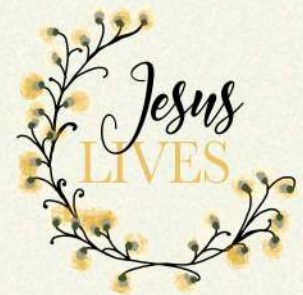
The pageantry of Palm Sunday is a stark contrast to the role of Suffering Servant that Jesus faced a few short days later. Yet each event during Holy Week represents victory — for Jesus as well as for his beloved children.

Palm Sunday is a glorious day, so let us wave palms and shout, "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The Savior has come. What an entrance! What a part!



Special Dates

- **Apr 1st - Administration Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., AB; Maundy Thursday Service with Communion, 6 p.m., Sanctuary**
- **Apr 4th – Easter Sunday Service with Communion, 10 a.m.; One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering**
- **Apr 5th - Outreach Committee Meeting, 11 a.m., FH**
- **Apr 16th - Tidings articles due**



AN EASTER PRAYER

From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.

Believing in

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe in his parents and their ability and desire to get

him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief in the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they

believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."



Cultivating Kindness

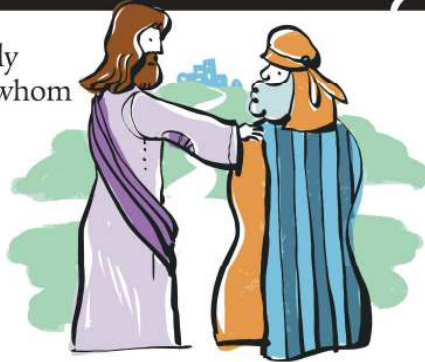
Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.

Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)



New Bible Study Schedule Begins

The following schedule for Bible Studies is effective immediately:

- **Sundays:** Adult Bible Study, 11:00 a.m., FH (after the Worship Service)
- **Wednesdays:** Adult Bible Study, 3 p.m., FH (after the 2 p.m. Prayer Group)

Administration Committee

The Administration Committee met on March 4, 2021 in the Activity Building at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Jay Walrath, Karen Palmer, Kathy Nobles, Mary Lou Anderson, Marilyn Nail, Robin Sessums and Mark Nye.

After the opening prayer we welcomed Marilyn Nail our new addition to the committee.

Kathy and Robin discussed the progress on the membership roster. Mark and Robin have the updated Manual of Operations ready to pass out to the elders at the March session. We closed in prayer.

Our next meeting will be in the Administration building on April 1st at 10:00 a.m.. If you would like to join our committee please come to our meeting.

Karen Palmer , Administration Committee Co-Chair

Encourage wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you've heard over and over, play "I Wonder" with children and adults alike. Similar to "I Spy," it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren't detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase "I wonder." For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back not mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?
- The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Playing "I Wonder" can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you're eager to gain new insights on the "old, old story ... of Jesus and his love."

—Janna Firestone



There Comes a Time (Call right now)

By Tommy Fluker

There comes a time in everyone's life
Seems no matter where you turn, there's
nothing but strife
Your troubles are mounting and so are the blues
You've had enough of the bad, where's the good
news
Friends may desert you, or someone died
Your life's in turmoil because someone lied
You feel no one can help you, there's no relief in
sight
You've just about caved in, there's no more fight

Listen my friend-don't waste another day
All you have to do is sit down and pray
That's right, there's someone there awaiting
your call
Makes no difference who you are, he's there for
all
24 hrs. a day-7 days a week
He's there right now-even as I speak
The call is free, don't need an operator
Do it now, don't wait till later
Make that call, don't wait till you die
Who am I speaking of-why Our Father on High
Yes he's there-he won't let you down
He's never away-he's always around
No calling card necessary-anyone can belong
You feel there's no one to turn to, that's where
you're wrong
He will listen to your troubles and then set you
free
How do I know-he's done it for me

Celebrate!

- Jerry & Rosalind Wiedman, 04/23
- Mark & Jane Nye, 04/29



- Joan Fluker, 04/09
- Larry Ketterling, 04/11
- Elena Walrath, 04/11
- Karen Palmer, 04/12
- Joyce Howard, 04/14
- Evin Howell, 04/16
- Fred Durham, 04/23
- Rose Osborne, 04/26
- Debra Dawson, 04/30
- Bonnie Laverty, 04/30
- Donna Swanson, 04/30

QUOTES

"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies."

—Kate McGahan

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

—Reba McEntire

* * *

"The earth laughs in flowers."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Our Sunday Schedule

Sundays - 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study - 11 a.m.