

Easter Thoughts

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.” We were created out of love. An amazing love that filled us with light, love, life. However, humanity sinned. In our disobedience, we knowingly separated ourselves from the Father’s love causing everyone to fall into darkness and bringing about our death. But in his tender love and mercy, God sent his Son to save us, to die for us, to forgive us, to heal us, to love us the way no one else could love us.

Jesus, taking on our human condition, brings light to our darkness and life to our deadness. He makes us a new creation in the Father’s love. This is the true cause for our joy and the reason for our gladness for this day was made for us. We rejoice for we have been reunited to the love of the Father, through the saving work of his Son, in the grace and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. By sharing in the Passion and Death of our Lord, we share in his Resurrection. We rise with him in newness of life. Through Jesus, we have become beloved children of God, a new creation, children of the light, children of eternal happiness and peace.

Our challenge now is to stay close to Jesus, so the darkness does not creep back into our lives. We do this by continuing to walk with Christ and making fasting, prayer and almsgiving part of our daily routine, part of our daily life. We fast from those things that pull us away from God and pull us back into darkness; back into the empty tomb. We dedicate more quiet time to prayer in order to remain intimately present to the Lord to share our thoughts, feelings and concerns with him. We continue to give ourselves to the Lord in loving obedience to him and in loving ministry to those in need. We continue to walk with our Risen Lord and allow him to be the food that feeds and sustains us, the nourishment for our journey back home.

Nourished by Christ through these gifts, we can respond as the Disciples did when they saw the empty tomb: they believed, they shared, they loved as Christ loved them. So let us rejoice and be glad, for we have been enlightened by Christ. Let us continue to keep the Passion of Christ alive in our hearts and remember all that the Father has done to resurrect us to eternal life simply because he loves us.

Who Have We Hurt? Matthew 5:23

Easter is a time of particular focus on Jesus’ resurrection, the start of a new life in Christ. But we can’t start a new life if we carry the pain of past wrongs.

We need to see where we need to improve relations with the people in our lives. We can begin by listing the people we have harmed. Looking back over our lives we can see where we have been at fault. We can review our lives as far back as we can remember, focusing on whom we have hurt and in what ways we have hurt them. Our list might include family members, relatives, friends, neighbors, public contacts, and business associates. We might also list places of employment, stores, businesses, or other institutions where we have stolen something or caused damage. Fear and pride often cause us to resist this and hinder our making a complete list. We do the best we can, realizing that as our awareness and honesty grow we will be able to add other names to our list who have not occurred to us yet. now,

If our list includes almost everyone we know, we have to take another look at it. Some of us may indeed have been very domineering, aggressive, or sarcastic and, therefore, may have hurt many people. On the other hand, our self-centeredness and tendency to believe the world revolves around us sometimes causes us to

include unnecessary names because we exaggerate the importance of our smallest word or deed. In reality, some people we list probably will not even know what we are talking about if we try to apologize. However, do not use this as an excuse for leaving out a name. When in doubt put down the names of all that we think we have harmed and re-evaluate our list with the help of an objective person when the time comes to actually make amends.

Many of us realize the person hurt the most has been ourself, and we have to include our own name on this list. We may have hurt ourselves by blaming ourselves for things that were beyond our control or by judging ourselves too harshly. We must accept and forgive ourselves if we are to accept and forgive others.

Endurance

- Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised. Hebrews 10:35-36
- I know your works, your toil, your patient endurance... Revelation 2:2.
- He who endures to the end, will be saved. Matthew 10:22
- Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12
- If we endure, we shall also reign with him; ... 2 Timothy 2:12
- ... give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalms 136:1
- Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal. John 6:27
- By your endurance you will gain your lives. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:7
- If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. 2 Corinthians 1:6
- Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory. 2 Timothy 2:10
- ...what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 2 Timothy 3:11
- And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Hebrews 6:15
- But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings... Hebrews 10:32
- For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promise Hebrews 10:36
- By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the ang of the king; for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. Hebrews 11:27

CALENDAR

Sunday	10:00 am	Bible Study	At the building and live stream
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship	At the building and live stream
Sunday	4:00 pm	Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus	At Pam & Rob's
Wednesday	10:30 am	Senior Breakfast	At Perkins Restaurant
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Bible Study	At the building
Saturday	7:00 pm	Teen Group	At the building

April 15th **Senior Breakfast** 10:30 at the building. Seniors, caregivers, and friends are all invited. (3rd Saturday each month.)

May 18-20th **Montana Men's Retreat:** "Creating Communities of Conviction" at the C-N Camp near Augusta, MT. Cost is \$150 for adults, \$90 for under 19, with a late fee of \$15 after May 10th. See Bob Queenan with questions.

June 3rd **Family Days in the Park** – 11:00 am – 7:00 pm. Bring games, sports equipment, and food is picnic style. Sunnyside Park (next to EIRMC)

June 4th **Family Days in the Park** – 10:30 am – 5:30 pm. Worship starts at 10:30, then a potluck, then games and fun –Sunnyside Park (next to EIRMC)

Aug 6th **Area Singing** with the Pocatello Church of Christ. Details to follow.

PRAYERS

- For Gary Brush and for Melanie. Gary came through his surgery well and is resting at home. Their address is 3461 Rosewood St., Kingman, AZ 86401.
- For Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- For Bobbie Knight. Bobbie Knight, IDOC # 113912, PWCC - 2 C, 1451 Fore Rd, Pocatello 83204.
- For Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- For Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces. Jordan would appreciate letters of encouragement: Jordan Allbritten, 5013 A, Fort Sill, OK 73503.
- For our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, & Carolyn.

LEADERSHIP

Web Page: idahofallschurchofchrist.org

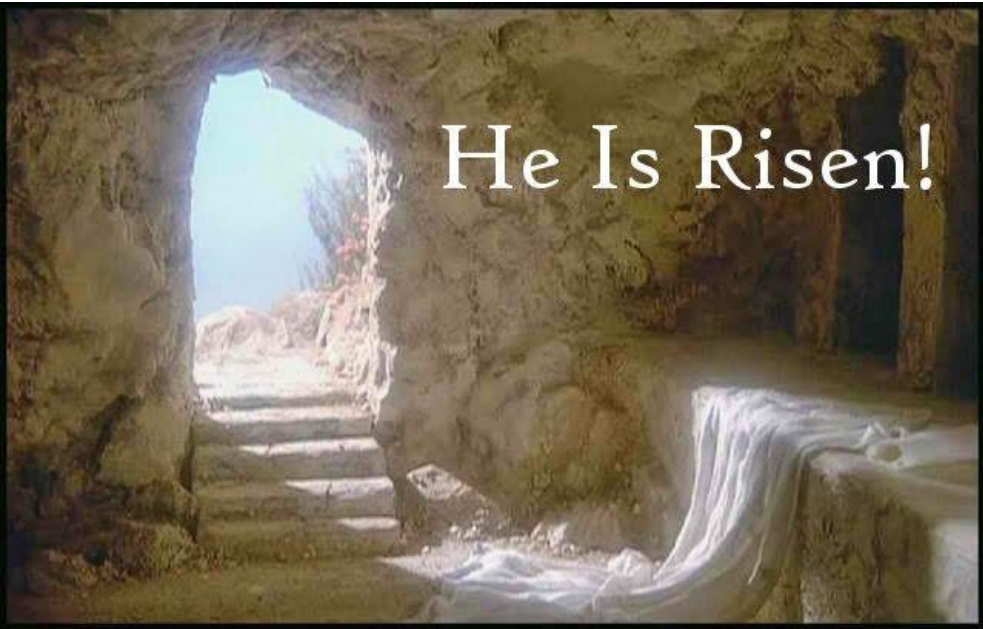
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The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

April 9, 2023

Welcome!

We're a bible-based congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls to praise and worship the one God and to support and encourage each other. All are welcome! Please join us in our worship services and classes.



Meditation for Today

Simplicity is the keynote of a good life. Choose the simple things always. Life can become complicated if you let it be so. You can be swamped by difficulties if you let them take up too much of your time. Every difficulty can be either solved or ignored and something better substituted for it. Love the humble things of life. Reverence the simple things. Your standard must never be the world's standard of wealth and power.

I pray that I may love the simple things of life. I pray that I may keep my life uncomplicated and free.

Online Bulletin is available at our website <https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite>