

St. Matthew Today

Wed., Mar. 27th, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 127th year

Two Momentous Days

Friday's Word



Good Friday and Easter.

Today is Good Friday—for those reading Friday's Word on Friday. And this Sunday is Easter.

Two momentous days.

One no more important than the other.

On Friday evening, our great choir will sing, Without His Cross, there Is No

Crown.

Without Good Friday, there is no Easter.

The "prop" for the Good Friday service tonight is a life-sized image of the burial shroud of Jesus.

The "Shroud of Turin," as it is called.

(The radio-carbon dating was wrong. Two more recent dating tests are right. It comes from the time of Jesus.)

The Shroud image will be referenced as we follow the story of Jesus' last hours from John's gospel.

John's gospel carries the close-to-first-hand account provided by "the beloved disciple."

It is powerful.

Standing at the foot of the cross were four Mary's: Jesus' mother, Mary the wife of Clopas. And Mary Magdalene.

Jesus' aunt, his mother's sister, was also there.

And "the beloved disciple."

That is the only way he is named in the Gospel of John. I do not believe he was John. He was not one of the twelve. We do not know his name. But his witness takes us close to both the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

I turn to that witness again on Easter Sunday morning.

Please consider this your personal invitation to both of these services.

Tonight, we have a light supper at 6:30 before worship. The service starts at 7:00.

On Sunday the kids hunt Easter eggs at 10:00.

Easter worship starts at 11:00. Let us, too, gather at the foot of the cross.

Last Sunday—Palm Sunday

It was a memorable Sunday.

What a great lunch! Thanks to Bill and Linda Parker and all who brought food.

Folks called me to comment on the choral anthem, the great piece by G. F. Handel. It had all of us rejoicing. We thank the Lord for the blessings of the day.

Holy Thursday—7:00 p.m.

I don't mention it is Friday's Word, which comes out the day after. I hope you can come on Thursday evening. (Light supper at 6:30 before worship.)

Mary will lead this service.

What's it all about? It is about celebrating our Lord on the yearly anniversary of the Last Supper.

"Do this," he said, "in remembrance of me."

Good Friday—7:00 p.m.

Light supper at 6:30.

The crucifixion narrative from John (and "the beloved disciple") will be illustrated with a life-sized image of the Shroud. The image will be mounted on a 7-foot piece of plexiglass. I am working on how I will get this large piece of plexiglass to the church from Oak Cliff Glass and Mirror in Dallas. Then, how do I make it stand up at the front of the church?

Is it worth all this effort?

The Good Friday service is—for me—the most important service of the year. I consider it a privilege to be part of it.

It is always a hard service to prepare for.

And this year, it will be different from all previous years. Come, if you can.

Easter Sunday

Egg hunt for the kids at 10:00.

The great Hallelujah of Easter begins at 11:00.

Our great choir. A brass quintet. Lilies fill the sanctuary. Joy abounds.

You know how it is.

And I can hardly wait.

God bless—MB

God Bless—MB

saintmatthewumc.com
revmaxb@tx.rr.com



Mary's Corner



Greetings to all from the risen Christ,

We follow the risen Christ, but we are still in that time of waiting for the inevitable. We know that Calvary is coming, that the cross has to happen. One day they shouted, "Hosanna!", and a few days later, "Crucify Him!" We have learned of the depth and breadth of God's love through God's

actions on the cross. We also experienced that love now, in this moment. As I write and as you read, the love of God surrounds us both. Close your eyes and feel the breath of God blowing across your life. Become aware of the warmth of the Savior standing next to you. Be aware of the little things that God uses to feed your spirit and empower your faith. God is in us and through us and all around us. God is mystery and God is light. Picture in your mind that God made flesh and dwelling among us as Jesus of Nazareth is spending the last, few precious hours telling the world that we are loved and we are forgiven. There is nothing greater than this. Thursday evening we will talk briefly and then have communion together, remembering the last supper of our Lord.

I just received word that Anna is being transferred from the hospital to a physical rehab facility.! This is the next step in her journey toward health. I am so grateful for your love and your support of my family. We would not have survived this without you.

My love to all, Mary.

pastor@saintmatthewumc.com

Kids' News

Be at church early this Sunday! We will have lots of eggs for our kids to find! The Easter Bunny told me that there are a lot of goodies in the eggs!

Be at church by 9:45. Our Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10:00 sharp. Please do not be late!

Bring Mom and Dad to help you open all your eggs! You may be the lucky one to find the Golden Egg! We will have crafts in the fellowship hall that you can work on before our hunt! Remember that time — 9:45!! We will have a movie and popcorn during church for all you kids to enjoy while Mom and Dad are in church!

This last Sunday our kids carried in palm leaves and shouted as they entered church! All this shouting was to welcome Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. People were excited as Jesus entered the city, they gave him the same greeting that a king would receive in those days. They spread palm leaves and their clothes on the road for Jesus to walk on.

As Jesus passed, the crowds shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord." By riding a donkey instead of a horse, Jesus said that he came in peace. We can remember the palm leaves as a symbol and a way to praise God.

See you all in church on Sunday!
Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday (3/28)- Dinner at 6:15 pm, Service at 7:00pm
Good Friday (3/29) - Dinner at 6:15 pm, Service at 7:00pm
Easter Sunday (3/31) - Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am, Service at 11:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt

Don't be late! The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10:00 am. Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early. Bring your kids and grandkids!

New Study: Near-Death Experiences

Sunday mornings from 9:50 - 10:30 am
Starting after Easter, Jackie Brennan will conduct a 6-week study of near-death experiences.

Methodist Discipleship Class

Details coming soon! Over 6 weeks we will meet via Zoom. The class is for those who are new Methodists, or who did not grow up in the church.

Scheduled Giving

You can make a special gift or automate monthly giving to Saint Matthew from your checking account or credit / debit card. Contributions in any amount help us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the community and the world.

"Gain all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can." - John Wesley

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit our website <https://saintmatthewumc.com/give>

