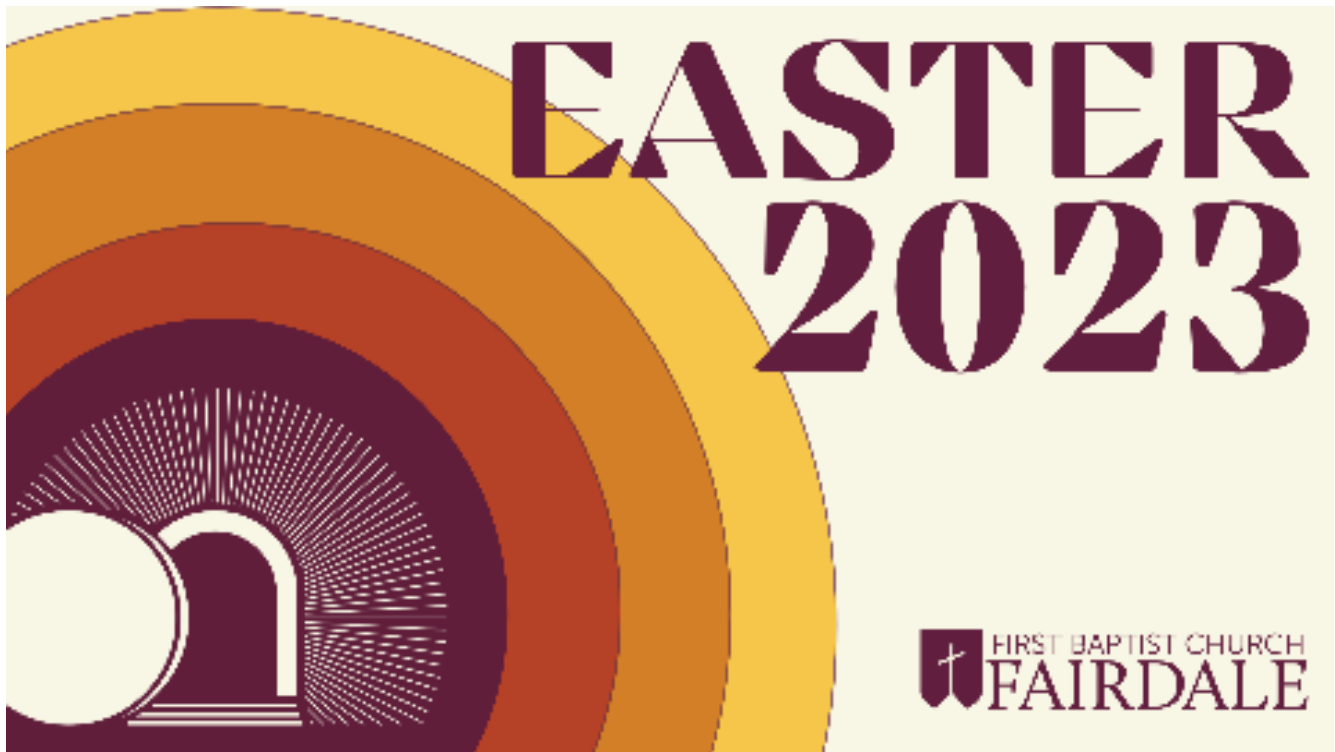


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Over the past month or so, in weekly Bible studies and Wednesday night prayer meeting and even this past Sunday morning's sermon, we have been spending time meditating on Colossians 4:2-4,

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”

We have discussed various parts of this passage, but the key focus has been on Paul's request that the Colossian church would pray for God to open doors for the Gospel to be proclaimed. Our pastors have encouraged us to do the same – to be prayerful for Gospel opportunities and to be watchful for when those doors are opened. The Easter season is a time when we may have open doors that we wouldn't have other times of the year.

Many people who do not normally attend church will visit on Easter Sunday. Those who are curious about Christianity or church may be more willing to visit for a special service,

and we have multiple options (Good Friday, Sunrise, and Easter Services) available for them to attend. Many of us will be spending time with friends and family and may have conversations about the meaning of Easter and the significance of the resurrection in the life of a follower of Jesus. Parents can take time to share with their children about the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Open doors will be all around us this week. May we look for them and by faith step through them, proclaiming the good news clearly to those who are ready to receive it.

The Bad News and Good News of Easter

Matt McBroom
Pastor

As I have gotten older, I have begun to pay more attention to the news and current events of the day. I believe it's good for people to be up to date on the important issues that are facing our community, our country, and our world. While there are many positives to being well informed, there are adverse side effects to staying plugged into the steady stream of information that is available to us. Perhaps the biggest drawback is the negative nature of much of the news. There are times when I will hear or see a story that leaves me shaking my head in disbelief. I often ask myself questions like, "What in the world is wrong with people?" or "How did we get to the place where this sort of behavior is acceptable?"

The simple answer to my question is sin. Mankind is sinful and you don't have to watch the nightly news or scroll through social media very long to figure that out. I am often reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote about the sinfulness of man in Romans 1. I find his words to be painfully fresh and applicable for the world we live in today. Paul says,

"They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent,

haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." (Romans 1:29-32)

This is a harsh and condemning description of people, and I don't think it would have been written any differently if Paul had been writing his letter today.

As bad as this news is for mankind, we need to hear it. We must know the truth about our sinfulness to see ourselves the way we truly are. I believe the Easter season, more than any other time of year, brings us face to face with the sinfulness of man and God's holy judgment against that sin. Once we quit lying to ourselves about being "good" people, we can begin to understand the hopelessness of our situation, and ultimately realize our need for someone to act on our behalf. We need a savior!

Hearing and understanding the bad news of our situation prepares our hearts for the good news of the gospel. When we know what we deserve (judgment/death) we will praise God for the richness of his mercy and the greatness of his love for us. This love was displayed while we were still in our sin and rebellion.

BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

This month, let us pray for our community - Faridale, Louisville, and all the areas where we live and work.

Pray that:

- our good works in the community would glorify God.
- we would live with integrity as representatives of Jesus.
- we would look for ways to serve and love our neighbors and community.
- God would grant opportunities to share the gospel with those around us.
- we would be faithful to share about the hope that we have.
- the Holy Spirit would be preparing hearts to respond in faith to the gospel.
- our church would be diligent to disciple new believers.

The Theological Foundation Of Our Worship This Easter

Andrew Crawford
Minister of Music

Easter is probably my favorite week at church out of the whole year. As Christians, we rejoice, sing and celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ every week. The cross is the center of our church 52 weeks out of the year. However, Easter is a special time to be remember the truth of the Gospel - that Christ died, Christ rose, and Christ will come again.

When we sing in worship, we are responding the work of God's grace. That response is not merely an emotional response, but a theological one. The difference between right worship of the living God and idolatry is that one is fueled by truth and the other is rooted in a lie. When we worship, we worship in truth. Written below are three truths that we will sing in response to this Easter.

CHRIST HAS DIED

*Alas and did my Savior bleed,
and did my sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?*

In Luke 22:19, Jesus tells his disciples to break bread in remembrance of His body which is given for them. We remember the death of Jesus by regularly taking the Lord's supper, weekly singing and preaching of the cross, and daily living for Christ. When we remember Christ's death, we do not remember it with sadness or sorrow, but with humility, joy, and love. Romans 5:8 tells us that "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." The death of Christ is God's ultimate display of His love.

CHRIST HAS RISEN

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever,
With His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Christ's resurrection is the single most important event in human history. God's grace, faithful-

ness, and glory are displayed in the resurrection. 1 Peter 1:3 says "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." The resurrection of Christ gives us a living hope. Our hope in Christ is alive. The resurrection of Christ is the ultimate display of God's power.

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.*

Even as we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, we look forward to the consummation of God's redemptive work when Christ will come again to rule and reconcile all things back to himself. The return of Christ is the ultimate display of God's glory.

I think no passage of Scripture better illustrates Christ's death, resurrection, and glorification than Philippians 2:5-11, which, coincidentally (and in keeping with the theme of this article), was written as a hymn known as the Christ Hymn.

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."