

HIGHLIGHTS

Holy Week: Easter remains Easter even with social distancing

UNION COUNTY — Easter Sunday and the preceding Holy Week are traditionally a time of gatherings for believers to recognize and celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The ongoing threat of the coronavirus is preventing in-person worship this Easter, but thanks to technology and the dedication of church members and leaders locally and across the world, communal worship is possible — and thriving.

In Union County, there are several opportunities to virtually gather with other believers to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Pastors from the area will have worship at 10 a.m. Easter Sunday on Super Talk Radio KLBM 1450AM and KBKR 1490AM. Churches also will stream services.

La Grande

•Calvary Chapel will worship online Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m. See the church's Facebook page and website, www.cclagrande.com.

•Christ Church will meet via Zoom at 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday. To join, go to the Christ

Submissions

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by 4 p.m. Wednesday for publication Friday. Submit by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line), by fax to 541-963-7804, or by hand to the office.

Church LG Facebook page.

•Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints invites all to fast and pray on Good Friday, April 10, to control the pandemic, protect caregivers, strengthen the economy and normalize life. At home study continues with the Easter lesson for the week of based on Mosiah 1-3.

•Church of the Nazarene offers a live resurrection celebration on Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Access the livestream on the church's Facebook page or YouTube channel. More details are available on the "watch live" page at www.lagrandenazarene.com/live.

•Faith Center's Easter sermon will be posted on www.lg4square.com/sermons and on YouTube.

•Faith Lutheran's Church has posted Holy Week readings and sermons at www.lgfaithlcms.org.

•First Christian Church is posting Holy Week prayers and services on the Friends of First Christian Church-DOC Facebook page.

•First Baptist Church will gather virtually at 10 a.m. Easter Sunday for a live streamed service on www.lagrandefbc.org.

•First Presbyterian Church is posting music, scripture readings and services on their Facebook page during Holy Week.

•Foundry Church will have a podcast posted on its Facebook page on Good Friday and another one on Easter morning.

•Grace Lutheran Church will celebrate Holy Week online at gracelutheran-lg.org.

•Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church's Facebook page includes links to videos, guides and podcasts relating to Holy Week as well as messages from

the Pope.

•St. Peter's Episcopal Church is posting a video of a song every day during Holy Week on its Facebook page as well as an ecumenical online Good Friday service. Links to an online Easter worship will be available Saturday.

•United Methodist Church's website, www.lagrandeumc.org, has links to view YouTube videos of its services. The Easter Sunday service will be followed by a Zoom meeting at 10:30 a.m.

•Zion Lutheran Church's Pastor Roberta Smythe will post a song every day of Holy Week on the church's Facebook page. An ecumenical Good Friday Service video will be available Friday and Easter Sunday Service will be available on Saturday.

Also, the National Cathedral will have live streaming services for Maundy Thursday (4 p.m.), Good Friday (9 a.m.) and Easter Sunday (8:15 a.m.). These services will be available later as recordings. The Oregon Synod staff will have an online service via Zoom at 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

Cove

•Calvary Baptist Church will live stream its Easter Sunday service at 11 a.m. on Facebook.

Elgin

•Agape Christian Fellowship will be live on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

•Christian Life Center will stream its Easter service on Facebook at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

•Harvesters Nazarene Church's Facebook page has article links, sermons and ideas for celebrating Holy Week.

Imbler

•Imbler Christian Church will have a 10 a.m. Easter service on Zoom. For an invitation to join, email hargrob@eou.edu.

Summerville

•Summerville Baptist is posting videos of its Holy Week services on the church's Facebook page and other content at www.summervillebaptistchurch.com.

Union

•Union Baptist Church is offering a drive-in Easter service at 10:30 a.m. The service also will be streamed on Facebook Live.

Looking to the eternal hope found in the risen Lord

For a little more than a year now, I've been involved with the local chapter of Youth for Christ. We have had to change how we meet with and interact with the kids — doing so



SAVED BY GRACE
RONALD BOND

on Zoom, a digital platform — in recent weeks due to the coronavirus. But in that,

a handful of us leaders also have been getting together almost nightly on Zoom for a devotional and time of prayer. This has been one of the blessings that has come out of the time of confinement for me, as it adds yet another opportunity to be with others in the body of Christ, be in the word and gain refreshment.

One of the devotions shared last week is one I want to share here. It's appropriate not only for this time as we approach Easter, the remembrance of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, but also in this time of needing hope with the coronavirus invading our lives.

Luke 24 tells the story of two disciples (one named Cleopas — the other's name isn't given in this account) walking to Emmaus, a town outside Jerusalem, on the day Christ rose from the grave. They just had

heard about Jesus being raised from those who went to the tomb but were part of a group that "would not believe them" (Luke 24:11). As they were approaching Emmaus, the resurrected Christ

approached them on the road, but they didn't realize it was him. A discussion took place,

and they told him about Jesus being delivered up and crucified. They went on to say, "But we were hoping that it was he who was going to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21). They noted that it was the third day after the crucifixion — the day Jesus himself had prophesied that he would rise.

As the discussion plays out, Christ goes on to show them everything in the Old Testament that pointed to him, and eventually their eyes are opened to the fact that not only was Jesus alive, but they had indeed met with the risen Lord.

There are a ton of elements in this section one could dive into. But what really jumped out to me when we discussed this a week ago was the lost hope — and later, the restored hope — of these two disciples. They were hoping, as it says in verse 21,

that Jesus was coming to redeem Israel. And I think it's safe to say they thought, since he had been crucified and three days had passed, that hope was gone.

True, Israel will be one day redeemed, but not until Christ's second coming, which is rapidly approaching. These two disciples — and, no doubt, countless thousands of others at the time and even more today — missed the point of Christ's first coming, which was to save the world from sin by forgiving all who believe in his death, burial and resurrection. They had their hope set in the wrong place. Hence the reason the Bible notes they were "looking sad" (Luke 24:17).

This, however, is not an indictment on these two individuals, for everyone alive could say they at one point or another have put their hope in a place they shouldn't have. Maybe it was in the stock market. Maybe in a friend who betrayed you. Maybe in a job. Maybe in a sports team. Maybe in a spouse. Maybe in a false god.

This list could be endless, but that's not the point. The point is this: When we put our hope in the wrong places, and what we were hoping for doesn't pan out, we lose hope. These two disciples had lost hope in what they

were looking for. They thought their hope was dead, and it saddened them.

Many of us may be feeling a sense of hopelessness right now. There have been some promising reports this week that we could be reaching the peak of the coronavirus and that soon we may have succeeded in "flattening the curve."

But what if that proves wrong, and this goes on for another month or two and the death toll rises? That could cause many to lose hope.

Many of us have, or know someone who has, lost a job, lost hours, been furloughed, or may face one of these fates in the coming weeks. If those jobs or hours don't return, or more of us fall into the growing number of unemployed, that could cause many to lose hope.

These two disciples weren't the only ones who lost hope. Mark 16:14 says that when Jesus appeared to the apostles after his resurrection, he "reproached them for their unbelief."

They too appeared to have been distraught by the crucifixion and thought all hope was gone.

But Jesus repeatedly told the disciples that he had to suffer and die and that he would be raised on the third day (Matthew

16:21 and 20:18 are just two of the verses). And it is this very event — the death, burial and resurrection of Christ to forgive the sins of all who believe in him — that gives us the hope we celebrate this Easter Sunday. God, being perfect, holy and just, has to judge sin, and the annual slaughter of lambs at Passover to temporarily withhold that judgment pointed to the time when Jesus took our judgment for sin once and for all as "the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Yes, we hope this coronavirus passes quickly. We hope those who are ill recover quickly. We hope jobs return. But should these not happen, we have a greater hope in him who later in the Bible said, "I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore" (Revelation 1:18).

Those two disciples by the way, once they realized who Jesus was, and that he, indeed, was alive (Luke 24:31) immediately returned to Jerusalem to the rest of the disciples with a simple yet profound message that gave them — and still today gives us — eternal hope: "The Lord really has risen" (Luke 24:34).

Ronald Bond is a sinner saved by grace and the sports editor of *The Observer*.

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week

<p>LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</p> <p>901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Services: Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children's Church & Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday: Prayer Mtg., Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A church for your whole family Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CALVARY CHAPEL</p> <p>1433 Jefferson Ave. 963-5884</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contemporary Worship Expositional Teaching</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m. <i>Studying The Book of Galatians</i> Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m. <i>Studying The Book of Joshua</i> Wednesday Night Youth - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tune in to Calvary Radio 88.1 CSN</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p>1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p>390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Katherine's Catholic Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fr. Thomas Puduppulliparamban 301 E Garfield Enterprise Mass Schedule Sundays: St Pius X, Wallowa - 8:00 am St Katherine of Siena, Enterprise - 10:30 am Saturdays St Katherine of Siena, Enterprise - 5:30 pm Weekdays St Katherine of Siena, Enterprise - 8:00 am (Monday - Thursday and First Friday) All are welcome</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</p> <p>1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Taylor Gould lgumc@eoni.com www.lagrandeumc.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am - Nursery provided -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Place 62848 Philynda Loop in Island City "We are called to Serve"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-786-0447 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amazing Grace Fellowship</p> <p>1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- IS 40:31</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Place where hope is found in Jesus</p> <p>Join us in Fellowship & Worship Every Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study/Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande • 963-4018 Pastor: Mike Armayor www.lagrandeor.adventistchurch.org Learning for Today and Eternity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 <i>We use the King James Version Bible</i> Sunday School - 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening Bible Study - 3:00 pm (Effective June 10) Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm "Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures" www.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Zion Lutheran Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(an ELCA church)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 10:30 am - Classes Pastor: Roberta Smythe www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UNION BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>1531 S. Main Street, Union 541-562-5531</p> <p>www.UnionBaptistOregon.org Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm <i>Birthing, Building and Being the Body of Christ</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">First Baptist Church</p> <p>SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE</p> <p>541-963-3911</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All services have been temporarily cancelled. Live-streaming Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. People can watch at lagrandefbc.org</p>