

Easter messages from area pastors

How deep is the ocean, how high is the sky?

In our modern times we have become better educated and more acquainted with the world around us. There have been those who delved into the depths of the ocean to explore and to fathom its mysteries. They and we have learned how awesome it is. We have come to know and even to fear its depth. NASA has sent astronauts to outer space. We have learned some of its secrets and have come to know its dangers. With each exploration we come to know a little more of our magnificent universe. We also become aware that there is so much more to explore. We must be truly impressed with how deep the ocean is, and how high the sky.

As we delve into the depths of Holy Week we are confronted with truth, and mystery that goes beyond our universe. We commemorate the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For the believer it is profound; for the non-believer it is a mystery beyond comprehension, perhaps no different from the mysteries of our universe.

It may be that some are of the opinion that they do not need a Redeemer. They might be compared to the drowning man who thinks he does not need someone to help him. Or the person who thinks he can survive in a burning building without the help of a fireman, He thinks that he can survive by his own strength, and by the time he finds out that it is not so, it is too late. Those who believe in Jesus Christ know the need of a Redeemer, and put their faith in him. That person knows that faith is a most precious gift. That person knows how deep is the love of Jesus for them, for he died for them. That person knows how high is the love of Jesus for them for He came from eternity to be the savior.

One might add another dimension to the title of this article: "How Deep Is the Rut!" It seems that it is easy to get into a rut of indifference, a rut of apathy, a rut of negligence. Yet no one needs to be shackled by their past. For we might ask ourselves "How high is the love of Jesus for us?" And we know it is infinite. Change to faith can be sudden and thrilling. One's spiritual potential can be unlocked in an instant by the grace of God. The commemoration of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus gives a spark to our faith, prompts us to respond to the love of Jesus, and strengthens us to live by his principles more faithfully. For those of us who strive to do that, our Easter will truly be one of heartfelt peacefulness, one of spiritual contentment, and exuberant happiness of life, reveling in the joy of the resurrection of Jesus.

Fr. Gerry Condon
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
St. William's Catholic Church

Eternity in a Moment

I just finished reading a wonderful novel, "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery. Among its lessons is this: Eternity can exist in a single moment of beauty and truth. I propose that the life of Christ contains two such epiphanies.

The first moment holds a baby in a manger. This is God come down to earth, incarnated as a human being, to live as and among us. It is mind-boggling, the truth of this baby. It also holds for eternity, for God is always with us.

The second moment is a man in white standing by an empty tomb, holding out his hand to a grieving woman. This is man ascended to God, overcoming in death our limited physical existence and all that human sin can accomplish. This moment also holds for eternity, for our life in God is endless and blessing surely outweighs curse.

Jesus the rabbi during his life here was a profound teacher, miraculous healer, and insightful prophet. Jesus the Christ is the eternal truth of God, pointing to our own divine elegance.

Easter will be celebrated at Valby at 9 a.m., followed by breakfast. Everyone is welcome.

Rev. Lea Mathieu
Valby Lutheran Church

Easter is God's grace

Last Sunday, we celebrated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as it is recorded in Luke 19: 28-40. In verse 35, we read that the disciples brought the colt to Jesus and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. The devotional, "Disciplines 2010," underscores that Jesus did not climb onto the colt by Himself. Instead, He placed His life into the hands of His friends, thus creating an intimate moment with His followers. Friends lifted Him on to the colt, some holding His arms, others holding His legs, others holding Him at His waist, some standing behind Him, others standing face to face with Him. During the next few days, there would be other times of intimate moments of discipleship — bread-breaking and wine-sharing; foot-washing and truth-telling. And at what would appear to many to be the end of the road, Jesus' crucifixion and death, there would be time for a few friends to once again put their hands under His arms and legs, support His back, be face to face with Him as they set Him down from the cross and place Him in the tomb.

A Christian's journey of faith calls for many extraordinary acts of intimacy. Discipleship requires vulnerability, closeness, a willingness to lean in the direction of others, and grace to forgive others.

Why? Because the story isn't over, yet! Jesus' crucifixion and death was not the end of the story. Early in the morning of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where the body of Jesus had been laid. Suddenly there was an earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, rolled the stone which had sealed the tomb away. The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said... Go quickly and tell his disciples that he has been raised from the dead."

The story isn't over yet! Though Jesus died the death that we will all experience, He is alive forevermore! And Jesus has promised that those who receive God's gift of faith from God ---faith that God, our Creator is our Heavenly Father; and that Jesus is His only Son, our Lord; and that the Holy Spirit is the divine presence in our lives ---presence of God.

Easter is God's grace. Grace to cover all our sins. Grace to cover all our needs. Grace to cover the world in all its broken places. Grace of intimacy. Grace of the living presence of Jesus, our Christ.

May you experience God's grace this Easter. Amen.

Jonathan Enz
Heppner United Methodist Church

It's a Fact

Christianity is the most enormous scam ever perpetrated on this planet unless Jesus Christ did in fact arise from the grave.

His resurrection establishes Christianity the greatest hope for this planet. The Son of God has conquered death and wants to share His life with whoever will agree to the terms of the New Covenant: Believe, repent of your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and walk in the new life He gives you. (Refer to Acts 2:38-39 and Romans 6:3-7)

Death's unflinching tyranny dominates this world. Only Jesus Christ offers a way to freedom with convincing proof that he can deliver, by the fact of his own victory over the grave.

Easter presents an opportunity to refocus on this thrilling truth. How beneficial is it that thoughts of resurrection capture our minds?

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Tim Murphy
Heppner Christian Church

Live Risen Lives

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was leading him on a collision course with the ruling authorities and religious leadership. The symbolism of Jesus' entry was not lost on the crowd. He was the true King and Messiah. Even the actions and the words of the crowds claimed "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." Of course the leaders also recognized the significance of this. The symbolism would also have told them they were but pretenders to the throne. The time of their rule and power was short.

Jesus further confronted the ruling Sadducees by throwing out the money changers and telling them in the parable that they would be crushed by the "capstone" and that the kingdom of God would be taken from them. Jesus also confounded the Pharisees who tried to trap Him with questions and words. He attacked them for being hypocrites, calling them whitewashed tombs and dead bones. They had faith, but were unfaithful.

All of this must have added to the excitement of the disciples. After all these years, oppression by the Romans, dealing with corrupt religious and political leaders, finally the Messiah was here, ready to establish His kingdom. It only added to the disappointment that was about to come.

After celebrating the Passover, life, dreams and wishes, from the disciple's perspective, begins to unravel. There is a betrayal, arrest, kangaroo courts, humiliation, beatings and finally a very public and cruel death. The oppressive, the corrupt and the hypocrites had won. I do not think we can begin to imagine the depths of the disciples despair. Some hid, others just sat, and some packed up and headed home. And then...resurrection.

The depths of despair turns to the height of jubilation. This was the sign they had been waiting for, the indication that the end times had broken in. God had raised Jesus from the grave and He was the first fruits of what is to be a mighty harvest. Despair and fear turned to joy and boldness. It makes me wonder...

I wonder if after the resurrection the disciples ever thought back over the events of the week and saw that even when they thought that everything had spiraled out of control, everything was going according to the plan of God. Through the resurrection of Jesus, God had proved once again that He is faithful. They did not have to fear. Death itself had been conquered.

Given the current state of affairs that's probably a good lesson for us also. That life will have its high highs and low lows. There are times when it seems that all is lost. Maybe even death itself surrounds you. But God is faithful. Through His Son, the Passover Lamb and the Risen Lord, we can have shalom, a peace that passes all understanding. We can live "risen lives" of joy and boldness, even in the midst of the storm.

Keith Price
Willow Creek Baptist Church

Ione Community Church to hold Easter service

The Ione Community Church will be having an Easter service on Sunday, April 4, at 10 a.m. followed by a brunch. All are welcome to attend.

St. Patrick's, St. William Parishes announce Holy Week schedule

St. Patrick's Parish in Heppner and St. William Parish in Ione announce their schedule for Holy Week.

St. Patrick's Parish:

April 1: Holy Thursday, 7 p.m., solemn commemoration of the Lord's Supper

April 2: Good Friday, 12:05 p.m. Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m. solemn commemoration of the Lord's death.

April 3: Easter vigil, 7:30 p.m., Service of Light, liturgy of the word, renewal of baptismal promises, vigil mass.

April 4: Easter Sunday, 11 a.m., Mass of the Resurrection

St. William Parish

April 2: Good Friday, 5:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross.

April 4: Easter Sunday, 8:45 a.m., Mass of the Resurrection.

Hope Lutheran, All Saints Episcopal announce Holy Week schedule

Holy Week Services for the shared ministry of Hope Lutheran Church and All Saints Episcopal Church have been announced.

April 1 - Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church.

April 2 - Good Friday, 7 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church.

April 4 - Easter Sunday, 10 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church with Pastor Katy Anderson. Breakfast will be served by the Ecumenical Youth Group prior to the service.

Installation of officers held at Elks Lodge

At the installation Year, Corey Sweeney was of officers at the Heppner named Officer of the Year, Elks Lodge on Saturday, and Ed Baker was named March 27, Judy Buschke Elk of the Year. was named Citizen of the

Applications being accepted for Med Stars summer residential experience

Northeast Oregon ence University (OHSU). The program is open to high school juniors and seniors who are interested in pursuing careers in the health care field. Applicants must have previ-

ously participated in other health careers programs, and will be accepted based on their application and letters of recommendation. Tuition for Med Stars is \$300, which includes lodging, meals, transportation while in the program, and program materials. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Med Stars will be held on the OHSU campus, July 13-17. Students will participate in hands-on activities, tour OHSU facilities, and interact with health professionals. Applications must be completed

and returned to NEOAHEC by Wednesday, April 28 in order to be accepted.

To request an application, or for more information, contact Brenna Dunlap, education coordinator at (541) 962-3801 or bhines@eou.edu. You may also visit our website at: www.eou.edu/neoahec/he1.html.

Northeast Oregon AHEC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to attracting and retaining health care professionals by providing regional education opportunities in the local twelve county region.

Check Our These Great
Dinner Specials
At John's Place
Tuesday - Meatloaf Dinner
Wednesday - Fish Dinner
Thursday - Fried Chicken Dinner
Friday - Prime Rib Dinner
Saturday - Pork Loin
(all trimmings Included)
Thursday Is Kids Night
All Kids 12 & Under Eat for
only \$1
With adult purchase - kids menu only - Starts April 1
Hours: 11:30 - 7:30 Tues. - Sat
8a.m. - 3p.m. Sun.



JOHN'S PLACE
MAIN ST. HEPPNER

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Event

Accepted during the event:

- Used oil (containers less than 25 gallons) Oil filters.
- Spent Antifreeze, Automotive batteries, Alkaline & rechargeable batteries, Propane Tanks (smaller than 25 gal.) Oil based paint, Paint thinners and solvents.
- Roof and asphalt patch, Adhesives, glues and contact cement, Caulks sealers and joint compounds, Lawn and garden chemicals and fertilizers, Pool chemicals, Household cleaners (including bleach, ammonia, furniture polish, toilet bowl cleaners, carpet shampoos) Sludge (soil contaminated with oil smaller than 25 gal. containers) Mercury thermometers, Florescent lamps, All types of aerosol cans, Used cooking oil, Road flares, PCB ballasts, Organic peroxides (hardening agents)

Items not accepted: Empty containers, ammunition, explosives, biological waste, radioactive waste.

FREE

Moreau County Public Works
P.O. Box 409
Levelland, OR 97624
541-966-3200

Moreau County will be hosting another Household Hazardous Waste event. Full of change in County residents hold on. April 24, 2010 at the North end transfer station. 8900 Frontage Ln., Boardman. Hours of operation 11:00 to 5:00.

Wrangler's will start April 11th
...and run every Sunday thru May 2nd!
The play days will be held at the Rodeo grounds
Family cost-\$40 Potluck@12:00
Individual cost -\$25 Games@1:00
Participant must attend 3 out of 4 play days to be eligible for awards.

