



Salt & Light

Pendleton Free Methodist Church * 1711 SW 44th St.* Pendleton OR 97801

Upcoming Events



All-Church work day!
April 3rd,
starting at 8am

Usher/Greeter Luncheon
April 18th at 12pm



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by Pastor Scott

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The following article is being reprinted from a previous edition of Salt & Light



The Meaning of the Resurrection



By Pastor Scott

Within three short days of the crucifixion of Jesus, his followers began to believe and proclaim that He had been raised from the dead. Ever since, Christians have continued to believe and proclaim it, not only as an actual historical reality, but as the single most important event in all of human history.

But why? Aside from the obvious reality that you don't see dead people brought back to life everyday, why is the resurrection of Jesus a world-altering thing? After all, according to the Bible, Jesus isn't the first person to be raised from the dead. Remember His friend Lazarus? Jesus Himself raised Lazarus back to life before His own death and resurrection. And after Jesus' resurrection, the New Testament records other examples of people who were brought back from the dead as well. And yet, while obviously miraculous, none of these examples share the singular significance of the resurrection of Jesus. Indeed, we celebrate Easter specifically to commemorate this event which, even for non-believers, has completely changed the course of history.

So what is the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus? If He was not the first or the only person to be raised from the dead, why do we believe and proclaim His resurrection as the climactic event of our faith, and more than that, of history itself? To answer that question, we need to understand how the resurrection of Jesus fits into God's plan for the world and for us.

The Bible teaches that virtually from the moment sin was introduced into God's good creation through Adam & Eve's disobedience, God initiated a plan to set the world right again. Though it would take a great deal of time, and unfold in stages across history, the essential promise was that God would enact a plan of redemption and renewal, a plan which would culminate in a re-made heaven and earth.

Most Christians don't realize it, but the Bible has relatively little to say about heaven as a final destination. Instead, the promise of God has been that He will bring about a "new heaven and new earth", fulfilling his original design for creation, a design in which God's realm and the human realm are interconnected, or to use the phrase of author N.T. Wright, a design where heaven and earth "overlap and interlock". Rather than emphasizing the idea of "going to heaven when we die", the New Testament emphasizes that the culmination of God's promise of renewal will be *resurrection*. That is, we will be given new bodies, and will live in a re-made world where heaven and earth are

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connected in ways we cannot fully grasp in our present state. In that day, says the prophet Habakkuk, "... the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea..." (Habakkuk 2:14)

The point of the new heaven and new earth is that God will reign over all of creation while living in interactive fellowship with humans once again as He did when he walked with Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden. Sin, decay, and death will no longer scar our existence, as God's perfect justice and righteousness will easily and naturally rule all things. We will be perfectly reconciled to God, to one another, and to all of creation. Everything that is wrong in our world - every bit of brokenness, pain, injustice, heartache, and evil will be destroyed, and harmony will be the rule for eternity. That's the promise.

The resurrection of Jesus is so important because it is the "bridge" between what is and what is to come. It links, in a tangible way, our broken world to the promised new world and the fulfillment of God's plan. How? To quote N.T. Wright again, "*Because Jesus is raised from the dead, God's new creation has already begun.*" But what does that mean?

Although His wasn't the only instance of resurrection, it was a completely *unique* one. In the resurrection accounts of both Lazarus who was raised before Jesus and the examples recorded in the book of Acts after, each person who was raised was brought back to life in the same form as before. That is, they remained mortal and continued to have the same physical properties and limitations as before. They remained subject to aging, illness, and eventually, death (again).

But Jesus was raised with a new body and a new kind of existence which, although it shared some continuity with His previous body (He could eat, and His disciples could still see and touch His scars), also had some supernatural changes (He could appear and disappear, enter locked rooms without using doors, and hide His identity at will).

Only Jesus was raised with the kind of eternal body that is described in the Bible as a *resurrection* body. This means that in Jesus, God's previously promised "new creation" has its first living example. In Him, new creation has already *begun!* God's promise of resurrection - with new bodies and new life in the new creation - is now actually realized in the person of Jesus, and we're told that this same destiny will be shared by all those who believe.

Think of it like this: One of the most significant events of World War II was D-Day. That's the day when, at great cost, the Allied Forces landed at Normandy Beach - the pivotal step in liberating Europe and eventually ending the war. On D-day, the allies established a beachhead from which they were able to carry out the work of liberation and ultimately, victory. D-day didn't end the war immediately, but it really marked the beginning of the end.

The resurrection of Jesus was the "D-day" in God's great plan to liberate all of creation from the grip of sin and death. It too came at great cost, and is the pivotal step in His plan for new creation. In Jesus, God established a "beachhead" from which to begin freeing humanity and the rest of creation, and from it He is marching toward inevitable victory, which will culminate in the new Heaven and new Earth. The resurrection of Jesus didn't end the war immediately, but it really marked the beginning of the end which is still to come.

And God's "D-day" strategy doesn't stop with Jesus. Each of us who enlists in His "army" through our believing and following are called to live our lives as examples of new creation through acts and attitudes which promote justice and goodness and peace in the world. We, too, become part of the bridge between what is and what is to come. To quote Wright yet again, "*We are not only the beneficiaries of new creation; we are agents of it.*"

Ultimately, that's the meaning of the resurrection. That's the meaning of Easter. God's promise of new creation has already begun, and we can participate because Jesus is risen!



**"God's promise of
new creation has
already begun..."**

Happy Easter!!



There will be an all-church work day on Saturday, April 3rd starting at 8am. Remember, many hands make light work, so everyone is encouraged to participate. Bring your favorite cleaning supply, gloves, etc., and join us! You won't want to miss the fun and fellowship of working on projects outside and inside our church home! Donuts, fruit, coffee and juice will be provided starting at 8am. Thank you in advance to those of you that participate!



Taboada Family Update

It is hard to believe, but PFMC has been helping the Toboada Family financially for 3 1/2 years now! Jed Hummell and members of the Youth Group met Norma Toboada, a widow with four young children, on a missions trip to Mexico in June of 2006. They came back with the idea to help this special family, and issued a challenge to the PFMC Family: \$1 per person per month, and many of you have given faithfully ever since. Your generosity has had a huge impact on a family in need, and we would like to sincerely thank those of you that have given to this fund so consistently. We will continue to send the Toboada Family any money that is donated. It is never too late to participate in the challenge, and every dollar helps!

The Challenge: \$1 per person per month.

PFMC Financial Information

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
<i>Operating Income</i>	\$ 30,285	\$ 67,150	\$ 61,666
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 33,164	\$ 64,163	\$ 61,666
<i>Missions Giving</i>	\$ 271	\$ 618	*

* **Note:** No budget is set annually for missions giving. In addition to the amount received for missions above, PFMC also designates a portion of our operating income for world and local missions. The amount given for missions from our operating income is \$5,000 to date.

Worship Ministry

Into My Heart

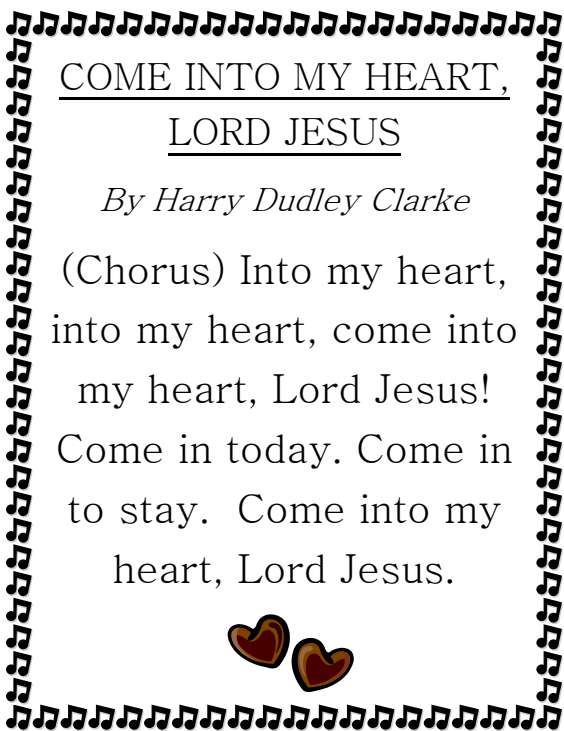
Contributed by Karen Lange

I was preparing the order for the Worship Service last week and for some reason a song from my past mysteriously popped into in my head. When I was a little girl our church’s Sunday School experience each week began with lots of fun, upbeat songs about Jesus. Then we were treated to a short felt-board Bible story or a similar lesson. After that our leader dismissed us to our age appropriate classes, but before we left we always sang our prayer song, “Into My Heart”. I don’t think I’ve heard, let alone sung that song in many, many years and yet it came back to me like an old friend.

Maybe it came back because Easter is approaching or maybe it’s because I’ve been studying a lot lately about being in relationship with God. Anyway, that particular song began speaking to me and in a way that it never had before. You see, when I was a little girl I would sing those words and believe that somehow Jesus would actually come into my heart; like my heart was a little house inside my body where Jesus could live. Funny, but that’s what really happens. Jesus does come and live in the heart of the believer. He really does make His home there. That’s why He died. That’s why He gave Himself to death in our place. He wanted a very personal and authentic relationship with each one of us and to do that He had to make a way for God to see us righteous or in right standing. Jesus took our sin and gave us His righteousness.

That old Sunday School song came back to me at this time in my life I believe because I am beginning to highly value more than anything, the fact that the precious Savior lives in my heart. We were taught that song when we were little children as a precursor to what would hopefully be an acceptance by each of us of God’s plan of salvation and it accomplished that purpose in my youth. Now it is a life-long prayer for living out my salvation every day in fear and trembling with the Risen Lord always in me to will and work his perfect plan for my life. If you haven’t asked Him into your heart yet, what are you waiting for? Do it today. Start your own journey of salvation with Jesus in your heart.


“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends”. (Revelation 3:20 NLT) Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart today. Will you open the door?




COME INTO MY HEART,
LORD JESUS

By Harry Dudley Clarke

(Chorus) Into my heart,
into my heart, come into
my heart, Lord Jesus!
Come in today. Come in
to stay. Come into my
heart, Lord Jesus.



April 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3  All-Church Work Day 8am
4  PASTER'S PRAYER Team—4pm	5 Property & Facilities Mtg. 7pm 	6	7 Crosswalk Youth Group 7pm	8	9	10
11 Nominating Committee 4pm	12	13 BOA—7pm	14 Crosswalk Youth Group 7pm	15 Pastor's Cabinet 7pm	16	17
18 Usher/Greeter Luncheon 12:00pm	19	20	21 Crosswalk Youth Group 7pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Crosswalk Youth Group 7pm	29	30	



Children's Ministry Update

Contributed by Holly Banks

While every Crosswalk is unique, I would like to highlight an especially creative and successful evening that took place on March 10th. For several weeks now we have been separating the 4th and 5th graders for the teaching portion of Crosswalk. Russell Smith has been leading the older group of kids, and came up with a fabulous idea for a Survivor Style Crosswalk Challenge.

The kids were split into 5 groups, and each group had to visit 5 stations by following an intricate rope maze. Once at the station, they had to solve 5 different Biblical principal puzzles. The kids received a key for each puzzle solved. After all the keys were gathered, the teams each had a locked box that they had to unlock using all the keys. Inside each box was a different set of puzzle pieces the groups had to assemble. In the end, all the groups had to work together to assemble a Cross that read "Messiah" from top to bottom, and "Jesus" from side to side. Whew! It makes me tired just writing about it! The puzzle was one of the coolest parts, and Russell made it himself! He also furnished all the boxes, keys, rope and the time it took to put it all together. He did a great job, and all the kids really benefited from his creativity! For



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those of you with computers, be sure to go online and view these fun pictures in color at our website, by clicking on the April newsletter link.

Great job to Russell and all the volunteers that served as team leaders for the challenge: Vern, Gina, Brian, and Margaret! It truly was a job well done!

Also, a big THANKS to all of you who continue to donate cookies, we *all* appreciate your generosity and kindness!

