

The God Who Sees Me

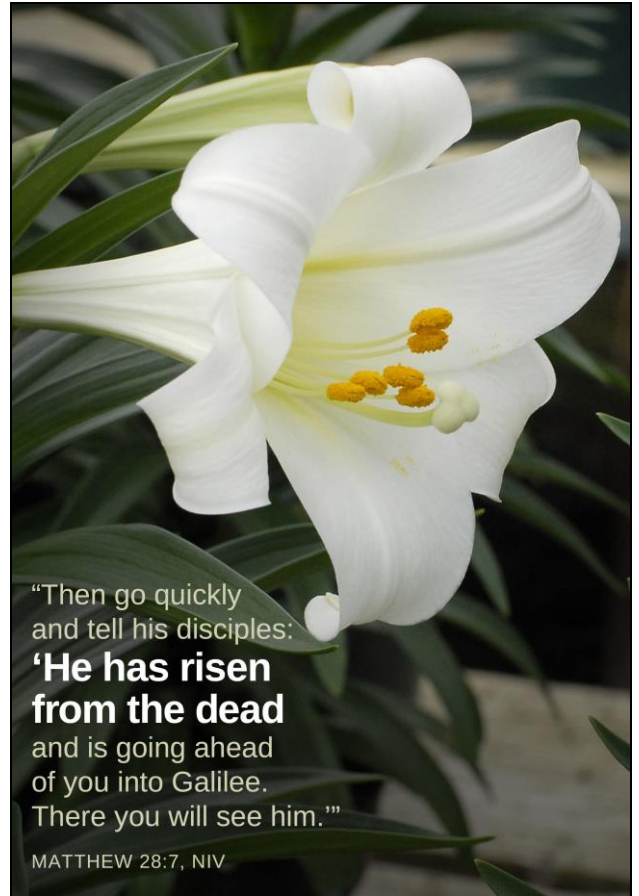
By Jean LaRosa

I volunteer at an animal shelter, and one of my regular jobs is to clean the cat rooms. When I enter the room with my cleaning supplies, at least one cat will start meowing at me, and won't quit. They want to be let out of their cage, and they want it right now. But I can't let them out until I am finished cleaning the floor. So I tell them, "I hear you. I see you. I'll let you out as soon as I can." Even though I know they can't understand my words, I want them to know that they are seen, and that I am not ignoring their cries.

Sarai and Abram (as they were then called) had an Egyptian slave named Hagar, and Hagar found herself in a desperate situation. Her mistress Sarai had given her to Abram as a second wife in the hope that she would bear a child for them. While Hagar was pregnant with Abram's child, she began to despise Sarai, and Sarai began to be abusive toward her. It wasn't Hagar's idea to sleep with Abram, but she was suffering the consequences of Sarai and Abram's poor decision. She decided to run away, fleeing into the desert. But the angel of the Lord found her and comforted her. The angel told her to give her son the name Ishmael, meaning God hears, because the Lord had heard of her misery. The angel said her descendants would be too numerous to count.

Genesis 16:13 (NIV) describes how Hagar gave the Lord a special name because of this encounter: *She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."*

God saw Hagar. God knew every detail of her situation. Yet even though God was aware of her misery, He didn't solve all her problems. The angel told her to go back to Sarai and



submit to her. She had to return to the toxic relationships with Sarai and Abram that had landed her in the desert in the first place,

Continued on page 2...



Pastoral Search Update!

The Pastoral Search Committee has identified the man they believe the Lord is sending to pastor Windsor Chapel. The Elders have done their prayerful due diligence and confirmed the choice. Please continue to pray for the process as the Elders and Pastoral Search Committee prepare information for the congregation. And please mark May 4 on your calendars: Pastor Jame John will be introduced to the congregation, and there will be opportunity to get to know him.



“The God Who Sees Me,” continued...

although we can imagine that she was forever changed by her encounter with the God who saw her.

And isn't that what we want when we are confronted with problems that threaten to overwhelm us—to know that God hears our cry, that He is aware of our distress? That He sees us, and we aren't just talking to the sky?

My husband's 97-year-old mother had a fall in November, and the aftermath has turned our lives upside down in ways we could not have anticipated. It has been a difficult and stressful few months for us. Every day, I have cried out to the Lord for help. Sometimes it feels like nothing has changed, and nothing is going to change. But sometimes, God gives me an unmistakable sign that He is present, that He sees me, He knows all about it. Yes, I get frustrated sometimes because it doesn't seem like God is fixing my situation, at least not the way I want it fixed. But I am *absolutely confident* that He knows about my troubles. God sees me, He cares about the things that make me anxious, and He is moving in the ways that accomplish His purposes.

In Luke 12:6-7 it says that God doesn't forget a single sparrow, and that the very hairs on our heads are numbered. There's even a hymn that reminds us, "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me." Even when we don't understand how God is working in our circumstances, we can be *confident* that He sees us, he hears us.

"You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me."
(Psalm 86:5-7)



Happy Birthday!

Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Jennifer Quiroga	April 2
Gert Ferst	April 7
Catherine MacQueen	April 12
Eva Bernheisel	April 14
Sarah Caroline MacQueen	April 15
James Richard MacQueen	April 19
John Hagestad	April 24

Work Day – Join Us for a Morning of Service!

Please join us on Saturday, April 5, from 9:00 am to noon, and enjoy fresh air, fellowship, and healthy exercise as we spruce up our facilities in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 13, at 3:00 pm. We'll be weeding, trimming, and raking to refresh our outdoor spaces. If you have them, please bring wheelbarrows, gloves, and gardening tools.



Coffee and donuts will be provided. Your help makes a difference, and we'd love to see you there!



Join Us for Windsor Chapel's Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Easter will be here soon! Please invite everyone to Windsor Chapel's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held on Sunday, April 13, at 3:00 pm. Children ages 2–9 will enjoy plenty of fun, special treats, and surprises—and best of all, everything is free! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors. All are welcome!

Please pray that Christ is glorified through this event as we use it to welcome families, invite them to our Easter Sunday Service and other church activities, and share information about our children's program. The rain date is Saturday, April 19, at 3:00 PM.

If you are interested in helping in this rewarding outreach, please speak with Ed MacQueen on Sunday, or contact him by email at e.macqueen1@comcast.net or by phone at 609-751-6584.



*Life with God is not immunity from
difficulties, but peace in difficulties.*

C. S. Lewis



Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services

Reflect on Jesus' cross and celebrate His resurrection this Easter season with your family and friends:

Palm Sunday (April 13, 9:30 am)

The children will lead us in a procession of praise during our worship service on Palm Sunday.

Good Friday Service (April 18, 7:00 pm)

Our Good Friday service will feature reflective music, congregational singing and Scripture readings which will focus our hearts and minds on the Cross.

Easter Sunday Worship (April 20, 9:30 am)

Don't miss this special service of celebration, combining special music and biblical reflection, on our only true foundation – Christ's resurrection! Invite your friends and family to experience the hope of our life in Christ.

Elders' Corner

By Darrell S. Bernheisel

In my prior writings I've put forth two themes for the church during this time of trial and transition. The trials we've faced include our declining attendance, a strained financial budget, and the departure of our long-standing pastor. The transition has consisted of providing weekly pastoral ministry, the establishment and support of our search team, and the search for a new pastor in a timely, God-honored manner. The themes to face these obstacles included my sentiments on trust and hope. For the former, I leaned on David's words in Psalms 40:1-5: *"...I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.... Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him. Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord..."* As it related to hope, I looked to Paul's words where he encouraged believers to have confidence in an expectation of being fulfilled and rejoicing in hope even when things look bleak. In Romans 5:2-4 we read: *"...We boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."*

During the past year or more our circumstances have left us feeling fragile. If we're honest, perhaps we were fragile. But I'd encourage you to stand firm. I feel that our church is right where God wants it to be and that amazing things are about to take place. To stand firm as we embark on a new phase, a new direction, and, possibly with a new pastor, I'd encourage you to have courage. From the book of Isaiah 43:1-5 we read: *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you...Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you. Do not be afraid, for I am with you."* What an amazing confirmation! These verses show how God shapes the

character of His people through trials. Our hope in Him comes from being known and knowing we belong to Him (verse 1). God let's us know we can't escape hardship, but He promises to protect us (verse 2). We are loved and He holds us close (verse 4).

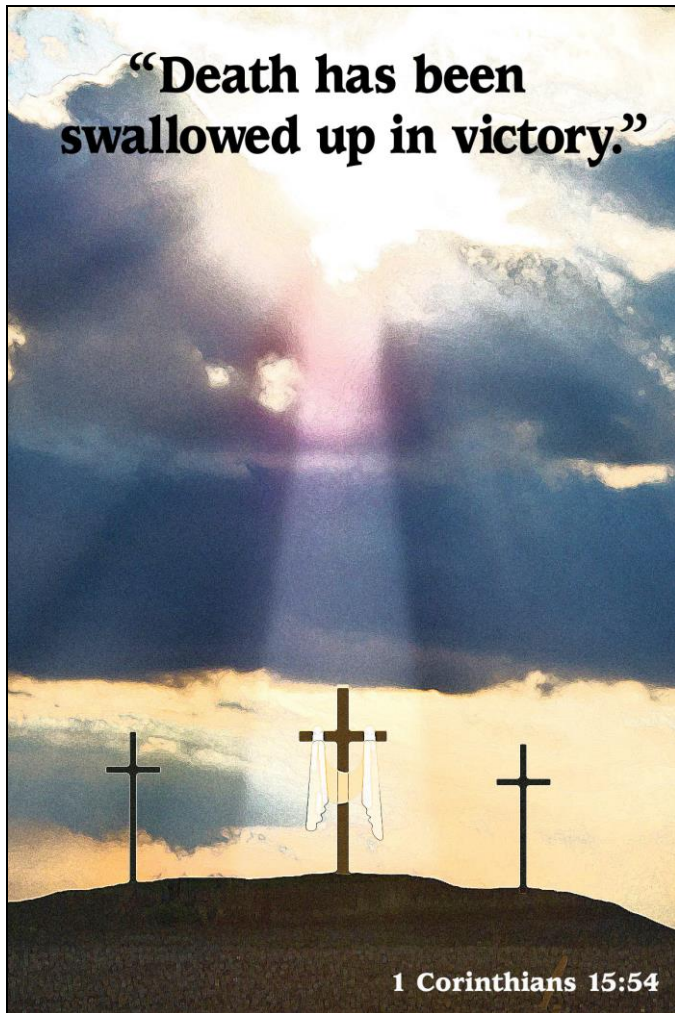
If that's not enough to get you to have the courage to stand firm, I'll remind you of Joshua. He is best known as Moses' second in command who takes over and leads the Israelites into the Promised Land after Moses' death. Joshua exhibited rock-solid faith in God. How so? He was among the twelve spies sent to investigate the land. While all the spies returned telling stories of the land's bounty and opportunity, only Joshua and Caleb urged the people to take the land. From Numbers 14:7-9: *"The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."*

I would like to think that we could be like Joshua (and Caleb). That we would not be intimidated by the size of warriors and the strength of the city walls. Therefore, we should not be afraid of short-term financial setbacks and the lack of a pastor. God will make a way. He will do this because God is faithful to His promises. Let us choose this day to have courage and trust in the Lord. Let us follow the example of Joshua and take heed the words of the prophet Isaiah to not be afraid.

Happy Easter to you and your family as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 John 4:16



I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.

Helen Keller

Financial Update

(Through February 28, 2025)

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$19,761	\$24,000
Expense	\$18,077	\$24,000

A Time of Fellowship with Trinity Church



Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Resurrection Power!

April has come, and Easter is coming.... This is the ideal time to consider, again, the magnitude of what Christ has done, and done for us. Christ's death and resurrection means that by faith, we are freed from our old life of sin and death and walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). Our celebration of Easter is a reminder to us that our loving Lord died for us so that we may live with Him in eternity; and it is a proclamation to the world that Christianity is not merely out of the ordinary, it is extraordinary. God taking on flesh to live among us, dying to pay for our sins, and then being resurrected to return to heaven to await the arrival of the saints.

There are limitless aspects to the events commemorated on Easter weekend. There are two, though, that I find particularly compelling. The first is the unfathomable power of the resurrection. Death is unavoidable, irrevocable, and irreversible in this fallen world. But the Bible tells us that God—and God alone—has the power to overcome death, to reverse it. There are a few instances in the Old Testament where we see prophets raise someone who has died by the power of the LORD. Christ, when He walked on earth as God Incarnate, raised some victims of death back to life. And then. Christ Himself—the Creator and Sustainer of the universe—died on behalf of mankind and then was raised in power and glory. The plot of the story is so familiar that we often do not give it much attention. But we would do well to take time to consider the absolutely incomprehensible power represented by the resurrection.

The second aspect of Easter weekend that I find helpful to ponder is that the death and resurrection of Christ signifies and signals that He has made a way for newness of life for those who would believe in Him. And the newness of life that He offers is characterized by the same resurrecting power that raised Jesus (and others) from the dead. Believers have an abiding relationship with the indwelling Holy Spirit. We have resurrection power within us, to strengthen us (Ephesians 3:16-20), and to equip and empower us to minister in the name of Christ (Colossians 1:28-29)!

There is a common denominator of these two aspects of Easter weekend: both demonstrate conclusively that God is God and we are not! Only God has resurrection power. Christ died and rose to do for us what we could not do for ourselves—restore our relationship with holy and glorious Godhead. We now have resurrection power, by the Holy Spirit, to minister in the name of Christ. And we look forward to our own resurrection, again by the power and grace of God. Christ has done—and is doing—what we cannot do for ourselves.

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
so that the surpassing greatness of the power
will be of God and not from ourselves.*

2 Corinthians 4:7

*Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557) or
cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue....*

**If you have any items or information you would
like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:**

Susan Seiboth at

susan@quiltingsquare.com

Dorothy Soi at

dsoi@windsorchapel.org

Chapel Office (609) 799-2559

www.windsorchapel.org

Contributing photographer: Jean Warner