

SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY PRINT AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

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April 2021

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

²⁸ Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty."²⁹ A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. ³⁰ When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit (John 19: 28-30 NLT).

The message of Easter should not be taken lightly. The implication of Easter is that God provided for us what we could not do in our own power. The sinless life of Jesus was exchanged for our lives. When Jesus uttered, "It is finished" on the cross, a transactional term, He provided the only answer to humankind's sin. It was the only personal way back to a perfect sinless God. Christ's sinless life and sacrificial death on a cross was exchanged for our sins, shortcomings, and failings.

Christ also paid for our sins past, present and future. When Christians fail and sin again, there is still no condemnation for them because of our union with Christ. First John 1:9 tells us we must repent by confessing our sin to Jesus, who is faithful and just to forgive us and restore our fellowship to Him.

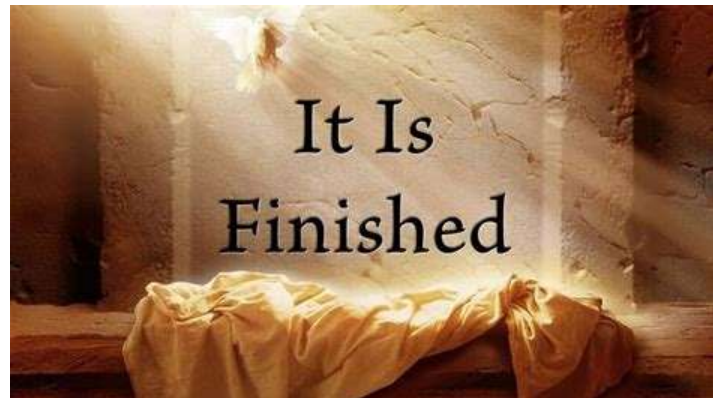
Because of Jesus' victory on the cross, Christians are not to fear physical or eternal death (Hebrews 2:14-15). Jesus has overpowered Satan's ownership of this world because Jesus' work is finished in the courts of justice. Jesus paid for the punishment for our sins. Jesus has defeated Satan, plundered his house (Luke 11:21-22; Revelation 20:1-2), taking back the title deed for the earth, and opened our path to heaven where He now prepares a place for His followers (John 14:1-3).

Why not start a prayerful discussion with God about how much He loves you to send His only Son to die for your sins to make you eligible for heaven and a blessed eternal life? He is Risen. He is risen indeed!

Pastor Tom Emery

It Is Finished

"It is finished"
words of agony from His lips
"It is finished"
no greater love will again eclipse.



"It is finished"
these words Jesus once said

and for the sins of the world
His soul hemorrhaged and bled.

"It is finished"
but what really had just begun
was that grace and forgiveness
were bought, for all by God's Son.

"It is finished"
and for you it can be a new start
if you repent of your every sin
and give Jesus your whole heart.

"It is finished"
Jesus died so that you'd be free
and His death on the cross
should take your soul to it's knee.

"It is finished"
but it's not the end of the story
not until the day all of mankind
will stand before God's full glory.

"It is finished"
words of hope from Jesus' lips
"It is finished"
don't let His love for you eclipse!

By Deborah Ann Belka, Christart.com

Happy Are the Hurting

In this lesson, we discover how God comforts those who mourn. The Bible is a Book of paradoxes: We receive by giving, live by dying and find by losing. Similarly, we find true blessedness by mourning.

Contrary to what our culture tells us, true happiness can be experienced when we mourn for ourselves and others.

If we expect everything in life to be pleasurable, we invite frustration. In recent years, we have seen some preachers offer a “positive mental attitude” philosophy of life, negating the example in Scripture that hurt must sometimes happen. The Bible offers a realistic appraisal of life in the human realm. Why do we think that tears are a sign of weakness or that they demonstrate a lack of faith in God? That’s not the message of the Word of God.

The Bible never asks us to pretend we don’t hurt. What do tears have to do with laughter? There are at least four ways that happiness is discovered through hurting.

Happiness is Discovered When We Sacrifice the Present for the Future. If a Christian accepts the crosses of life, he or she will ultimately be able to wear the crown. If we choose to live for the world to come, we may meet all kinds of sorrow, but we know that joy awaits us. We can take the easy road now and sacrifice the future, or we can sacrifice and discipline ourselves now so that we experience joy in the future. Simply put, if we mourn now, we shall laugh later. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted (Matthew 5:4).

Happiness is Discovered When We Sympathize with Those Around Us Who Suffer. Jesus was often described as a man full of compassion. He was constantly reaching out to heal and comfort those in pain. Sorrow is a product of love. As we love others, we hurt for their condition. You can’t mourn for someone you don’t love. The Bible says that when we suffer, we are able to help others who suffer. There is a blessing to those who can identify with pain, especially if they have experienced their own pain. Happy are those who can sympathize with the sorrowing people around them.

Happiness Is Discovered When We Sorrow for Our Sin. In 2 Corinthians 7:10, we read, “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” When was the last time you shed tears over your life? When a man or woman faces up to the things in his life that he knows violate the holiness of God, he mourns over his own sin. Blessed are those who mourn over their own sin, shedding tears over the evil in their lives, for they can experience a wonderful peace in knowing that God cares and forgives them. They shall be comforted.

Happiness is Discovered When We Suffer the Losses and the Crosses of Life. The saddest thing in the world, according to James Reid, is not a soul that sorrows, but a heart so selfish and dull that nothing touches it. To sorrow is to love. “Mourning is indeed but another and deeper side of loving.” Perhaps you’ve lost a loved one, gone through a divorce or lost your job. How does a Christian deal with grief? Good people tell those in grief to resign themselves to sorrow, for that is the common lot of man. But the way the world deals with grief is far different from the way God tells us to deal with it:



Don’t Repress Your Grief; Express it. Jesus openly wept on at least three occasions. Expressing feelings is an emotional release, offering cleansing and freeing us to begin the journey toward hope.

Don’t Replace Your Loss; Face Your Loss. The pattern in the Bible is to allow the full effect of sorrow to settle into our souls. There are no shortcuts to recovery. A person who reviews his loss, thinks it through, talks about it to friends and his Lord, will begin to get through it.

Don’t Retreat from Others; Reach out to Others. We are to grieve in community with one another. “Rejoice with those who rejoice,” Paul tells us, “and weep with those who weep.”

Don’t Depend on the Calendar; Depend on the Comforter. The world says that “time heals all wounds.” But the Bible says the Holy Spirit is the healer. When we mourn, the Spirit encourages us, makes us strong. In sadness, God is up to something. He wants to move you toward joy.

Happy are the hurting for they shall be comforted (Matthew 5:4).

Adapted from: “Happy Are the Hurting” in [How to Be Happy According to Jesus: The Study of the Beatitudes](#) by Dr. David Jeremiah (used in the Salem Women’s Bible Study).

The Mission of Jesus

With the arrival of Jesus, Israel's long-awaited freedom from captivity was imminent — or was it? They expected the Messiah to free them from Rome. What they needed was freedom from self. Where did this misunderstanding come from?

Israel in the First Century Israel's predicament was this: They were captives to the Roman Empire. "By the time of Jesus, Israel was generally considered a backwater Roman province full of cantankerous people with strange religious beliefs. The Jews had very little autonomy, though they clung to their religion and customs," according to Alyssa Roat.

The Jews also knew from prophecy that a Messiah would come, but they pictured him as a warrior who would crush a visible enemy. King Herod, who ruled Judea under the Romans, clearly understood that the Messiah the Jews expected was to be another king and thus a rival to himself. [...] Herod and the Jewish rulers considered the title "Christ" as synonymous with that of "King of the Jews" in accordance with the general expectation of the time.

Hope of Israel Our God is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). All that his people could imagine during the rule of Rome was that a great warrior king would emerge. "They were hoping for the prophesied One who would restore the kingdom of Israel under the Davidic dynasty."

Israel's focus on receiving a new promised land caused God's people to forget some of the key elements of Passover and the ways these connected with prophecy to foreshadow a true deliverance and a better Kingdom. What they imagined was short-sighted.

Benjamin Vrbicek wrote: "The whole of Scripture teaches that the greatest enemy to God's people is internal" and "we deeply resist this teaching." There were clues all throughout Scripture. For example, immediately before crossing the Red Sea where God crushed Israel's enemies, the Lord commanded that the Jews paint lambs' blood on the doors of their houses so that God's angel of death would not take their firstborn sons when he killed those of the Egyptians.

Jewish homes were passed over. "Without Christ, the Father looks upon the world He made and sees only a mass of corrupt sinners who are wholly deserving of His wrath."

All who submit to being covered by the blood of Christ are, like the Jewish children, being passed over; saved from God's wrath which they deserved because of their sin. The Messiah's purpose is foreshadowed in the Passover — to become a blood offering for our trespass.

Isaiah 53 also undermines a militaristic expectation. "He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed" (v.5).

The Psalmist suggests that Rome was not the problem, "for it is not an enemy who taunts me — then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me — then I could hide from him" (Psalm 55:12). This writer speaks of treachery by a friend, but he also refers to an enemy he could not hide from. Sin is the internal antagonist one cannot evade.

Come to Save All Another problem with Israel's expectation was that they anticipated a victory for themselves alone. Their preoccupation with the enemy

clouded their understanding that every person was an enemy to God. In the long run, Israel's religious leaders misunderstood the prophecies and Jesus' own sayings. They failed to see why Jesus came or to recognize the wider scope of this new covenant. "Truly, truly, I say to

you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death" (John 8:51).

The Jews understood the "world" in terms of their nation. Yet, Scripture affirms that "the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord [...] these I will bring to my holy mountain [...] for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:6-7).

God's Merciful Plan Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden, where they had originally enjoyed a natural and sinless relationship with the Father. But the Lord did this to protect his people from becoming immortal before the effects of their sin were paid for in full by Christ. The Lord's plan was always to provide his image-bearers a way back to him. When we sin, we strive to be monarchs of our own kingdoms. But there is only one worthy kingdom and One True God able to rule it perfectly.

Adapted from: "Why Was the Messiah Expected to Free Israel from Rome?" ChristianityToday.com. Candice Lucey Contributing Writer.

Church Financial Update

Prayerfully consider making a donation. Salem Church offerings should be mailed to the church at:

**Salem United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894**

Needed to Date:	\$27,408.96
Received to Date	\$38,777.44.

Baptisms

Each time we baptize a child, every Salem congregation member takes a vow to assist in raising that child as a godly member of Salem Church. This vow is not restricted to parents or to those who work with children as every member takes that vow.

The command to impart the faith to the next generation is a basic Biblical imperative. Deuteronomy 6:4-8 tells us:

4 "Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. 5 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.



March 28, 2021 – Rayna Sue Rigdon, daughter of Brooke Coil and Jarrod Rigdon was baptized.



March 28, 2021 – Audrey Lynn McCollow, daughter of Morgan and Pete McCollow, was baptized.

Salem Events



Lenten season ongoing skit and practice of, "Whose Cross Is It Anyway?"





March 7, 2021 – St. David’s Day reception and Wales slide show



March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday children with palms



March 7, 2021 – St. David’s Day reception and Wales slide show



March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday



March 20, 2021 – Venedocia Lion’s Club Pancake and Sausage Drive Thru



April 1, 2021 – Maundy Thursday informal reading gathering



March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday Jr. Bell Choir



IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Remember our elderly members, soldiers, and college students with cards and visits.

Bartie Jones

407 Stony Ridge Dr
Sandusky, OH 44870

Marjorie Rhodes

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marjorie Eutsler

15044 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Paul & Doris Price

18890 Bebb St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marian Morris

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Ione Owens

16398 State Rd
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

(U.S. Coast Guard)
7225 Altura Place
Oakland, CA 94605

SPC Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Cmr 405 Box 3825
APO, AE 09034

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)

Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler

(National Guards)
14975 Van Wert-Mercer
Co. Line Road
Venedocia, OH 45894

Sgt. Micah Linger

(U.S. Marine Corps)
2nd MEF G4
PCS Box 20085
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Gyer Blackmore (Army)

Section BDE. S1. Unit HHC
101st DSB
APO AE 09366

Away at College

Evan Pugh – University of Northwestern Ohio

Madison Pugh– USCGA | 15 Mohegan Ave.
8785 Chase Hall | New London, CT 06320

Condolences

Condolences to the families of Jill Burnett and David Owens

Birthdays

2 Lyndi (Breese)Forsythe	6 Carol Emery
8 Andy Breese	12 MaKenna Kimmert
13 Sami Jones	16 Bill Evans
16 Anne Morris	20 Kevin Matthews
22 Elgarda McGee	23 Grant Zielke
25 Julia (Morris)Molitor	29 Jenny Pugh
26 Gwenda Blackmore	30 Ruth Evans

Anniversaries

21 John & Mary Ellen Lloyd

Prayer Concerns

Katie Adams (recovering from surgery)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Ken Coil
Kathy Comer
Asher Eberle
Marjorie Eutsler
Nikki Ford (knee surgery & funds for surgery)
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Danny King (cancer)
Judy Foust (health issues)
LuAnn (family issues)
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd
Brianna Fair

Donald Martin
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Byron Mohr
Marian Morris
Judy Jones Muhn (health issues)
Ione Owens
Steve Peters (surgery & recovery)
Paul & Doris Price
Marjorie Rhoades
Shalia Schomaeker
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Betty Tenant (recovering from stroke)
Harold & Rosa Wollenhaupt
Raymond Young
Area Nursing Homes and residents

April 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Informal Maundy Thursday Service	2	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY One Great Hour of Sharing 9:00 AM Flower the Cross 9:30 AM Worship and Communion	5	6 7 PM Women's Bible Study	7	8	9	10
11 9:30 AM Worship w/guest Speaker John Zerbe No Sunday School 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	12	13 7 PM Women's Bible Study	14	15	16	17
18 9:30 AM Worship No Sunday School 10:45 AM Session Meeting	19	20 7 PM Women's Bible Study	21	22	23	24
25 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	26	27 7 PM Women's Bible Study	28	29	30	

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
April 4	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Gwenda Blackmore	Connie O'Neill
April 11	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Gwenda Blackmore	Becky Reichard
April 18	Jeff & Kim Coil	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Seth Baker
April 25	Todd & Jayne Morris	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Dave Van Tilburg
Ushers	Rex Lloyd	Greeter:	Rex Lloyd

Salem Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894



Palm Sunday Baptisms

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Secretary E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

April 2021 REVISÉ COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
Resurrection of the Lord/Easter – April 4	
Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
1 Cor. 15:1-11	John 20:1-18
2nd Sunday of Easter – April 11	
Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
3rd Sunday of Easter – April 18	
Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
4th Sunday of Easter – April 25	
Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18