



When Christ Made Us Reappear

But he was hurt because of us; he suffered so. Our wrongdoing wounded and crushed him. He endured the breaking that made us whole. The injuries he suffered became our healing. Isaiah 53:5 (Voice Translation)

I recently had the honor of being one of the presenters in a taped service that illuminated Christ's sayings from the Cross. For my part I was given his interactions with the two thieves. This part of the Passion has always moved me and given me a hope I can hold onto and a hope I can preach. It is not a high church sort of story. There is no ecclesiastical language. There is no bowing, no genuflecting, certainly no lifting up of the hands. There is no ceremonial washing, no purification, no Sunday best was cleaned and pressed. This is a *just as I am without one plea* drama with a simple, sinful man finding a way to bend a knee even though Rome had fastened his, immovable, to a cross. This is a story of one who jumps into the lifeboat of salvation and one who swims past it out into the dark waters of an unforgiving eternity.

We know nothing about these two men except that one is our brother and the other is not. It is entirely likely that the blood of both men co-mingled with the blood of Christ on that hill but with one man it was just gravity and with the other it was full baptism.

Isaiah saw Christ wounded, crushed for us. The Hebrew means bruised and literally beaten to pieces, to crumble into dust like the dust we came from. Only God understands how love (Christ) can become dust so that dust (us) can become love. His injuries become our healing and once again that ancient language gives us a clue because one of the meanings contained in that healing means that the wounds of Christ made us reappear. The sinfulness a Holy God must turn away from falls away, eclipsed by the surrender of the Father's perfect sacrifice. Brother thief has just become the apple of the Father's eye. Paradise opens.

There is nowhere else I would rather be at this time in history or this time in my life. Chapel begins each evening and people who spend much of their days and, sadly, their lives being invisible, begin to reappear. Grace and mercy flow from the One who was crushed for us and we have the privilege of setting more places at the table. Paradise opens on Tudor Road.

We will be celebrating the Resurrection in two services on Easter but we really celebrate the Resurrection at all times because Christ is living a Risen life for us. Pray for open hearts. Pray for the invisible to become gloriously visible.

Thank you for your faithful partnership. May the Dear, Obedient Son of God settle His glory upon you. May the joy of the Resurrection shine in your life like the sun in its strength. If you have felt a bit invisible yourself in this past year, may the clouds be rolled away as the stone was and may you find yourself in a brand-new day.

Happy, Blessed Easter.

In joy,

Pastor John LaMantia



Dear God, Build Us a Bigger Kitchen



Sometimes we all have to stretch a meal or two. The Mission needs to stretch the walls, floor and ceiling in our kitchen that runs like a factory. Please remember we are moving ahead with our kitchen project. We need more space to feed those in need and more space for instruction for those in our program who are learning to cook. Your prayerful support is appreciated. Please consider a monthly pledge, a fundraising project through a church or organization you belong to or as part of your estate planning. Thank you.

The Perfumer

*"Your name is like perfume poured out."
Songs 1:3*

*Mary, with ointment, looked for love's corpse.
She discovered love was an earthquake.
Love was walking freely in her world.
Love was doing its own perfuming.
A fragrant morning had come for Mary,
had come for us.
Anoint our lives, Jesus.*

~ Kat Cavanaugh LaMantia



Charitable Giving Act Update

The Universal Giving Pandemic Response and Recovery Act (UGPRRA) was introduced in both the House and Senate last week, showcasing strong bipartisan support as well as backing from many faith-based and charitable organizations. Passage of the bill would raise current charitable giving caps from \$300 for individuals and \$600 for married couples to \$4,000 for individuals and \$8,000 for married couples. It would also eliminate the current exclusion of gifts to donor advised funds so cash contributions could be deducted, and it would extend charitable deductions through 2022. Solid bipartisan support for the UGPRRA in the evenly divided Senate is particularly noteworthy, as is the addition of Senate Finance Committee member, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) as an original cosponsor. Two Citygate Network members played a pivotal role in getting Senator Cortez Masto on board. From Citygate Network of Rescue Missions

Thank You Trinity Christian School

We had a group from outside the Mission for the first time since 3/19/20. I have been the only one doing services due to COVID and it was great to be ministered to. Thank you to Trinity Christian School from Lubbock, Texas (REALLY OUTSIDE) under their leader, Pastor Warren. Good worship team and sincere testimonies. Thank you, Pastor Gary Morton from Anchorage First Assembly, for setting this up.



The Anchorage Rescue Mission makes every effort to honor the wishes of our donors who have directed contributions to a specific area. We do, however, reserve the right to redirect the monies received over and above a specific need, into whatever areas they may best be useful.

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones. But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed.

Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. "Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts," Mead said.

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized. (For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45) ~ Ira Byock



April Memorials

Honorarium for: Carol Haugstad
 Memorial for: Jean Byers
 Memorial for: Shirley Dickens
 Memorial for: Mary Robertson
 Memorial for: William Schwaab
 Memorial for: Velma Combs

by: Dorothee W. Wuerth
 by: Dorothee W. Wuerth
 by: Dorothee W. Wuerth
 by: Stephen & Carol Connelly
 by: Allan & Charleen Bentson
 by: Jean Schwaab

"This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long."



You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 16:11

A Double Graduation

Congratulations to Wayne Walluk upon the successful completion of our LifeSkills program. Wayne is a Christian committed to his sobriety. He has been helping us in our front office for several months. Wayne plans to remain housed in Anchorage and hone his craft as an artist. He has made and painted several frame drums this past year and just completed a commission. His art work was on display during this year's 2021 Fur Rondy. Prayers for continued success.

Pastor John, Board, Staff and Partners



Our best wishes to Leroy Rice upon his recent graduation from the LifeSkills program. Leroy has been so open to the teachings of Scripture and has celebrated a year of being saved and sober. He is being helped with housing through the Mission and will be living in our Sobriety Support as he continues his victorious walk. Leroy is also looking to volunteer in the community. Our prayers are with Leroy for every rich blessing in the days ahead.

Pastor John, Board, Staff and Partners

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice...1 Peter 1:3-6



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Mission Entries Selected for Exhibit



We took a field trip to the Midtown Mall to check out the Fur Rondy pictures on display. Some beautiful work there. Two of the three submissions from the Mission were selected for exhibit. The two selected feature art work that came out of our Creative Beginnings class. 550 photos were entered in the contest and 250 were displayed. We took the folks who were involved to see their work and then we all got coffee at Steamdot who roasts our Mission Blend coffee for us. We even managed to find one of the professional photographers who judged and got to ask him some questions and get some tips. What a nice afternoon. Thank you, Terri, Wayne and Simon. It is important to put beauty into our world and that is just what we are doing.

Until further notice, Pastor John is covering the worship schedule for April, 2021. Thank you!