

## **St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

*traditional land of the Three Fires Confederacy: the Odawa, Potawatami and Ojibwe.*

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### **Worship This Week April 9, 2023 -- Easter**

**Piano** – Dorothy O’Neill

**Sound/powerpoint/livestream** – Linda Malott

**WELCOME & Prayer** – Pastor Andy

Welcome to a new day in the Lord.

#### *Light candle1.*

The most amazing chapter of the greatest story ever told continues this morning. It began one week ago on Palm Sunday with the hero’s welcome, palm branches being waved as Jesus entered the capital city. It was followed by a week of drama – cleansing the temple by overturning the tables of the money changers and merchants, frequent confrontations with the temple leaders, attempts by the Pharisees to trap Jesus in his words and have him arrested, some of his most powerful parables (the talents, the 10 virgins, the wise servant, the wedding banquet, the tenants in the vineyard, the sheep and the goats). On Good Friday, we remembered the first Lord’s Supper and the most tragic death. After the crucifixion, Jesus’ body was laid to rest in a tomb. But that was just setting things up for the main event. Let’s pray.

**Song:** All heaven declares

#### *Light candle 2*

**Reader 1** – Tash Brewer

John 20:1-2 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

#### *Light candle 3*

**Reader 2**—Andrew Neely

John 20:3-10 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb

first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

#### Light candle 4

**Song:** He Lives!

**Reader 1** – Tash Brewer

John 20:11-14 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

#### Light candle 5

**Reader 2** -- Andrew Neely

John 20:15-17 Jesus said to her, "Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him, "Teacher!" Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

#### Light candle 6

**Reader 1** – Tash Brewer

John 20:18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

#### Light candle 7

**SONG** – He is Lord

**YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART** – Rita Vriesema

**PRAYER** – Rita

**SONG** – O how good is Christ the Lord

**RECEIVE OFFERING** –

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

**GOD IS MY WITNESS** –

**PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAYER** – Norma Latimer passed away. Jen Langstaff-Mason's sister Brenda passed.

**MESSAGE** – Pastor Andy

Seven is a powerful number. It shows up in science and nature:

- **Seven** colours in a rainbow/spectrum: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.
- **Seven** Continents: North and South America, Asia, Europe, Antarctica, Africa, Australia.
- Seven Seas: the Arctic Ocean, the North Atlantic Ocean, the South Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the North Pacific, South Pacific, Antarctic
- **Number** of music notes in a scale – A to G or D0-ray-me etc. We all know that tune from The Sound of Music. Bonus question: how many Von Trapp children in the movie? If you guessed seven – correct. Anyone guess their names? Liesl von Trapp, age 16, Friedrich von Trapp, age 14, Louisa von Trapp, age 13, Kurt von Trapp, age 11, Brigitta von Trapp, age 10, Marta von Trapp, age 7, Gretl von Trapp, age 5

**It shows** up in psychology:

- When asked to pick a number between 1-10, 7 is by far the most popular choice.
- Number of objects the average can hold in short-term memory. It's why phone numbers are seven digits.
- When guessing numbers 1-10 the number 7 is most likely to be picked.
- Seven-year itch: cycles of dissatisfaction not only in relationships, but in any situation such as working a full-time job or buying a house, where a decrease in happiness and satisfaction

**There's** actually a Biblical reason for this. In the Bible, seven is the number associated with perfection, forgiveness and healing, the fulfilment of promises and hopes. God created the heavens and the Earth in six days, and, upon completion, God rested on the seventh day.

Noah was commanded to take seven pairs of each animal into the ark. After doing that God told him to get ready for in seven days the rain will begin. After the rain stopped Noah released the Dove and after it returned he waited seven days and released it again. This time, the dove didn't come back.

God promises not to destroy the Earth again with a flood and memorializes this covenant with the rainbow, which is comprised of seven colors (Genesis 9:8-15).

**Every seven** years, the Israelites were commanded to cancel all the debts they had made with each other and free their slaves. (Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 12). Jacob worked seven years for Rachel and another seven years for Leah. (Genesis 29).

**In Pharaoh's** dream, he saw seven healthy cows and seven thin ones, seven beautiful heads of grain and seven that were withered. And there were seven years of prosperity followed by seven years of famine. (Genesis 41)

**The ordination** ceremony for Aaron and his sons as priests took seven days. (Exodus 29). The priests were to dip their fingers in the blood and sprinkle it seven times and then do the same with the anointing oil – seven times.

**The quarantine** period for illnesses was seven days. (Leviticus 13) The Festival of Shelters and the Festival of Unleavened bread – seven days. (Lev. 23) The Year of the Jubilee was after seven periods of seven years – which brought freedom in the land. (Lev 25)

**When God** brought Israel into the Promised Land he cleared the Hittites, Gergashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites – seven nations are greater and more numerous than you (Deuteronomy 7)

**When Elijah** prayed for rain, he sent his servant to check the horizon for clouds. It was on the seventh check that they appeared. (1 Kings 18)

**It was by faith** that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down. (Joshua 6) Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child's, and he was healed! (2 Kings 5)

**Wisdom** has built her house; she has carved its seven columns. (Proverbs 9:1) When the Lord returns with healing The moon will be as bright as the sun, and the

sun will be seven times brighter—like the light of seven days in one! So it will be when the LORD begins to heal his people and cure the wounds he gave them. (Isaiah 30)

**Likewise**, when the prophet Isaiah described the coming Messiah, he listed seven qualities that the Savior would embody (Isaiah 11:1-2).

And the **Spirit of the LORD will rest** on him—the **Spirit** of wisdom and understanding, the **Spirit** of counsel and might, the **Spirit** of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. He will **delight in obeying** the LORD. He will **not judge** by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay. He will **give justice** to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. (Isaiah 11:2-4a)

All of this sets up the scene for Christ. All of the Old Testament was advance preparation for the Messiah. And Christ continues the theme.

**Jesus asked**, “How much bread do you have?” They replied, “Seven loaves, and a few small fish.” So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to the disciples, who distributed the food to the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food. (Matthew 15)

**Then Peter** came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven! (Matthew 18)

**In the** context of perfection, Jesus spoke in a grouping of seven when He was asked how we should pray (Matthew 6:9-13). In response, Jesus gave us the Lord’s Prayer, surely a perfect way to pray considering that the words came from Christ Himself! Notably, the Lord’s Prayer contains seven petitions: Hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; Lead us not into temptation; and Deliver us from evil.

**Jesus spoke** seven statements from the Cross at the completion of His earthly duties:

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).

“Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” (John 19:26-27).

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).

“I thirst,” (John 19:28).

“It is finished” (John 19:30).

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” (Luke 23:46).

**In the Acts** church, as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. So the disciples called a meeting and they said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.” So they chose Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch who re presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. (Acts 6)

**Seven is** also associated with promises in the Book of Revelation. In particular, we read of seven letters addressed to seven churches (Revelation 2-3). In the letters, Christ assures each church community that if its members repent and live according to Jesus’s instructions, each community will receive its promised reward.

**Further,** Revelation often invokes the number seven in its discussion of God’s promise to save those whose names are written in the Book of Life and condemn those whose names aren’t (Revelation 20:15; 21:1, 27). The fulfillment of this divine promise is ushered in by groups of seven: seven seals, seven trumpets sounded by seven angels, and seven bowls of God’s promised wrath carried by seven angels (Revelation 6, 8, 11, 16).

One may be the loneliest number. Two may be better than one. But seven is the number God has chosen to tell his story.

Seven is not only in God’s words and commands. It’s also God’s design for strength and wholeness in his church. It’s also the sign of completion. At the beginning of our time here today we told the story of Easter Sunday by lighting seven candles. That doesn’t mean it’s the end of the story, because history

continues to unfold. It's complete in the sense that the battles we wage against darkness in this world are a fact of life, the actual war is over. The enemy has been defeated. That's the story of Easter. It's the story of God's hands working in this world.

**HYMN** – 247 Christ the Lord is risen today

**BENEDICTION** – May God – who loved us so much that He breathed life into us, and breathed life back into his Son – go with you, and may you turn to Him for everything you need.

**PRAYER** -- requests may be sent to the pastor, either for sharing or in confidence. If a need is not listed here it's because the family has opted for privacy.

## **NEW PRAYER**

## **CONTINUE TO PRAY**

Health and healing –

1. Jennie Atherton, Becky Desjardine, Bill Eves, Margaret Follows, Ron Mason, Jen Langstaff-Mason's sister Brenda, Bette Northcott, Tom O'Neill, Cherie Pegg, Sandra Pegg, Mary Whitson, Sandra Whitson
2. Anyone seeking or undergoing treatment for addictions
3. Anyone wrestling with anxiety and depression
4. Karen Northcott – thanks for good biopsy results but continue to pray.

There are many whose names are not listed here – God know who they are and what they need.

Seniors and shut ins – Alan (Curly) Clark and Norma Latimer at Riverview Gardens, Jim Lusk and Ross Fuchs at Oaks Wallaceburg, Lane Douglas at Fairfield Park in Wallaceburg, Joyce MacTavish at The Waterford Home in Barrie, Bill Lozon at Copper Terrace, Aubrey Butler at home.

Session – Mark Labadie (clerk and representative elder), Cindy Brewer, Sheila Eves, Andrew Neely, Mark Richards and Julie Shaw.

Board of managers – Wendy Weston (chair), Paul Vandenberg (treasurer), Will Brewer, Ross Fuchs, Linda Malott, Jenn Mason, Von Parking, Mark Richards, Jodie Rich, Dan Shaw, Bob Vriesema and Mike Wicks.

## **WHAT'S UP:**

Small group discussion – Any suggestions for a topic for the spring evening study? Let us know.

Pop can fundraiser – Bring your pop cans to church! Leave them in the bin behind Rutherford Hall.

## **DATES**

April 7 – Good Friday cross walk 9 a.m. starting at Rotary Park

April 7 – Good Friday worship 10 a.m. at Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle

April 10 – Board of managers meets 7 p.m.

## **GIVING:**

E-transfer to [pcvan1313@gmail.com](mailto:pcvan1313@gmail.com). Bring envelope on Sunday or if you have a key, leave it in the treasurer's mailbox. Mail it to the church, PO Box 93 Dresden. N0P 1M0. Put it in the mailbox at the home of treasurer Paul Vandenberg. 1313 North Street, Dresden.

Telephone number 519-683-6194

GIFT CARDS – You pay face value for the gift cards and the church buys them at a discount through Chatham Christian Schools. **Next deadline April 30.**