

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

APRIL 2022

Rising to Dance!

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption . . .” I Corinthians 15:42 KJV (Please refer to I Corinthians 15:35-44)

In a widely shared video, an elegant elderly woman sits in a wheelchair. Once a famed ballet dancer, Marta González Saldaña now suffers from Alzheimer’s disease. But something magical happens when Tchaikovsky’s “Swan Lake” is played to her. As the music builds, her frail hands slowly rise; and as the first trumpets blast, she starts performing from her chair. Though her mind and body are perishing, her talent is still there.

Reflecting on that video, my thoughts went to Paul’s teaching on resurrection in I Corinthians 15. Likening our bodies to a seed that is buried before it sprouts into a plant, he says that though our bodies may perish through age or illness, may be a source of dishonor, and may be wracked with weakness, the bodies of believers will be raised imperishable, full of glory and power (vs. 42-44). Just as there is an organic link between the seed and the plant, we will be “us” after our resurrection, our personalities and talents intact, but we will flourish like never before.

When the haunting melody of “Swan Lake” began to play, Marta at first looked downcast, perhaps mindful of what she once was and could not longer do. But then a man reached over and held her hand. And so it will be for us. Trumpets will blast (v. 52), a hand will reach out, and we’ll rise to dance like never before.

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AVALON GRACE CHURCH

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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims

Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday Messages available on website:

(www.avalongracechurch.com)

Children’s Sunday School 10:45 AM

Bible Study, Thursday Evenings 7:00 PM

**“And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . .”**

- Ephesians 3:9

Rising to Dance (Continued from Page 1)

What dance do you look forward to being able to do after the resurrection without any physical limitations?



The Twist?

The Irish Jig?

The Bristol Stomp?

The Jitterbug?

Dancing across the Milky Way with your beloved?

Flying and dancing freely from Jupiter to Mars?

Belief in the Resurrection is like belief in seedtime and harvest. Neither could be completely understood but both are real. As a plant which sprouted from a seed was directly linked to it can be remarkably different from it, so too was the relationship of a natural and resurrected body."

Our resurrection body will be so much more than our natural body, which is weak, imperfect, and temporal, and for many of us - aches and pains upon waking each morning, bending over, and/or climbing the stairs. But, elsewhere Paul gives us hope and states:

Portions of this article taken from Our Daily Bread, March 2022, by Sheridan Voysey

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15: 51-54

***"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."* (Philippians 3: 20-21)**

We will be like Him! How great is that?

***"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."* (1 Peter 5:10)**

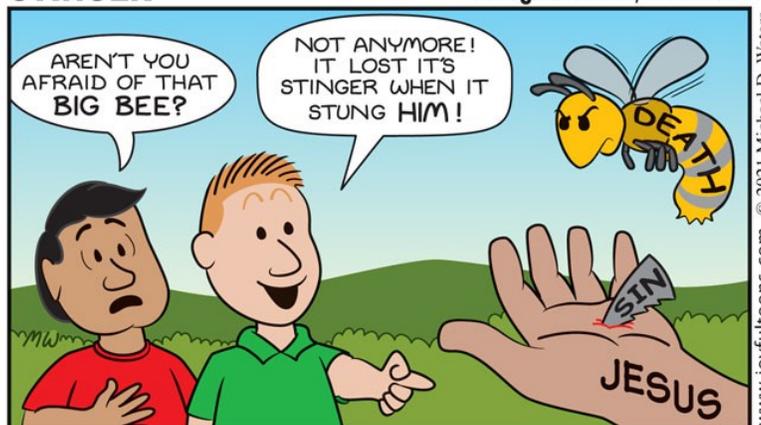
Because of our Jesus, our future is secure, closer every day and although we suffer now and endure hardships, sickness, inconveniences, and uncertainty we are :

***"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."* (Hebrews 12:2).**

In Christ, Pastor Phil

STINGER

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:55-57 KJV

Hosanna!



During Jesus's earthly ministry, He often told His followers not to tell anyone who He was. He said it was not yet the time. But the day He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey was the appointed time; the only public announcement that He was God's promised Messiah, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9.9:

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

His announcement was rejected by many, yet God's plan was fulfilled, as the following poem by Kay Hoffman eloquently conveys:

*They waved palm branches as He passed
And hailed Him as their King,
Yet, they knew not of the sorrow
The coming week would bring.*

*The glad acclaim would soon give way
to jeers and mockery,
In Pilate's court He'd be condemned
To a cross on Calvary.*

*But Jesus knew He was the price
In God's redemptive plan,
The Sacrificial Lamb come down
To die for sins of man.*

*The centuries have passed and still
He seeks those lost in sin,
Pleading with unyielding hearts
To repent and follow Him.*

*On this day we shout our praise,
O, let us not delay;
The palm-strewn path of long ago
Still leads to Him today.*



How do I know?

(By Eugene M. Harrison)

*How do I know that Christ is risen?
What proof have I to give?
He touched my life one blessed day
And I began to live!*

*How do I know He left the tomb
That Easter long ago?
I met Him just this morning,
And my life is all aglow.*

*How do I know that endless life
He gained that day for me?
His life within is proof enough
Of immortality!*

*How do I know that Christ still lives
Rich blessings to impart?
I know it's true because He lives
And reigns within my heart!*



*The smell of sweet magnolia
Drifts through the morning air
The lingering scent of perfume
Is found most everywhere.*

*The lilac tree is blooming
True color, in its prime
Its fragrance, just like heaven
Aroma, so divine.*

*The sun is brightly shining
A cloud cannot be found
Bright blue skies of azure
With tulips all around.*

*The birds are gently lilted
Their song is warm and sweet
With thoughts of home and nesting
Upon the breeze they meet.*

*With grass so green and tender
A garden that's been blessed
Daffodils are blooming
God's beauty at its best.*

- Unknown

Trust the Bible over Religious/Secular Calendars

The study of chronology is a complex science that includes precise calculations of days, times, months, and years. Yet, with all its precision, calendars are still influenced by religious/secular tradition.

Tradition says that (this year 2022) Holy Week is from April 10th to April 16th. Friday, April 15th is labeled "Good Friday" by the calendar. Tradition says that it is the day our Lord Jesus was crucified. April 17th is labeled as Easter Sunday on your calendar. Tradition says that it is the day Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, resurrected from the dead.

The Bible says that Jesus was dead for three days and three nights explaining that he was dead/buried for a full 72 hours: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:40

The 24 hour day theory affects more than creation week. To make the Bible fit with the religious calendar this coming Saturday (April 16th) would need to be more than 50 hours long! If you've been asking for more than 24 hours in a day then April 16th is your day!

Indeed, the world does try to make it difficult to have faith in God's Word by imposing man's idea of so called discrepancies.

There are some contorted attempts to reconcile current calendars with the account of Jesus' three days and nights in the grave. Most claim that any part of a day means the whole day; however when scripture says days and nights, it is meant to be a full 24 hour day.

Either your Bible is right or the labels put on your calendar by religious/liturgical/secular tradition are right.

By rightly dividing the word of truth, we choose the Bible over tradition any day of the week.

The Bible is more trustworthy in its description of days and times than any modern religious calendar. Thankfully, our faith does not come from chronology and day observance but by the Word of God.

While realistically, we are required to observe the calendar in terms of days, months, and years, don't trust religious calendars that mark Our Lord's time on this earth. Stick with the Bible which says Jesus was dead and buried for three days and three nights but now is raised from the dead, seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven for over two thousand years.

Study is the key to understand how to account for the full three days in the fulfilling of prophecy (accurately) regarding the example of Jonah in foreshadowing Jesus' time in the tomb.

Finally, a good resource regarding this topic can be found in Bullinger's appendix 156. It provides detail on the accounting of days during the week leading up to the LORD's crucifixion and subsequent entombment for three full days.

(Portions of this article taken with permission from Graceambassadors.com)

Easter is a Time of Joy

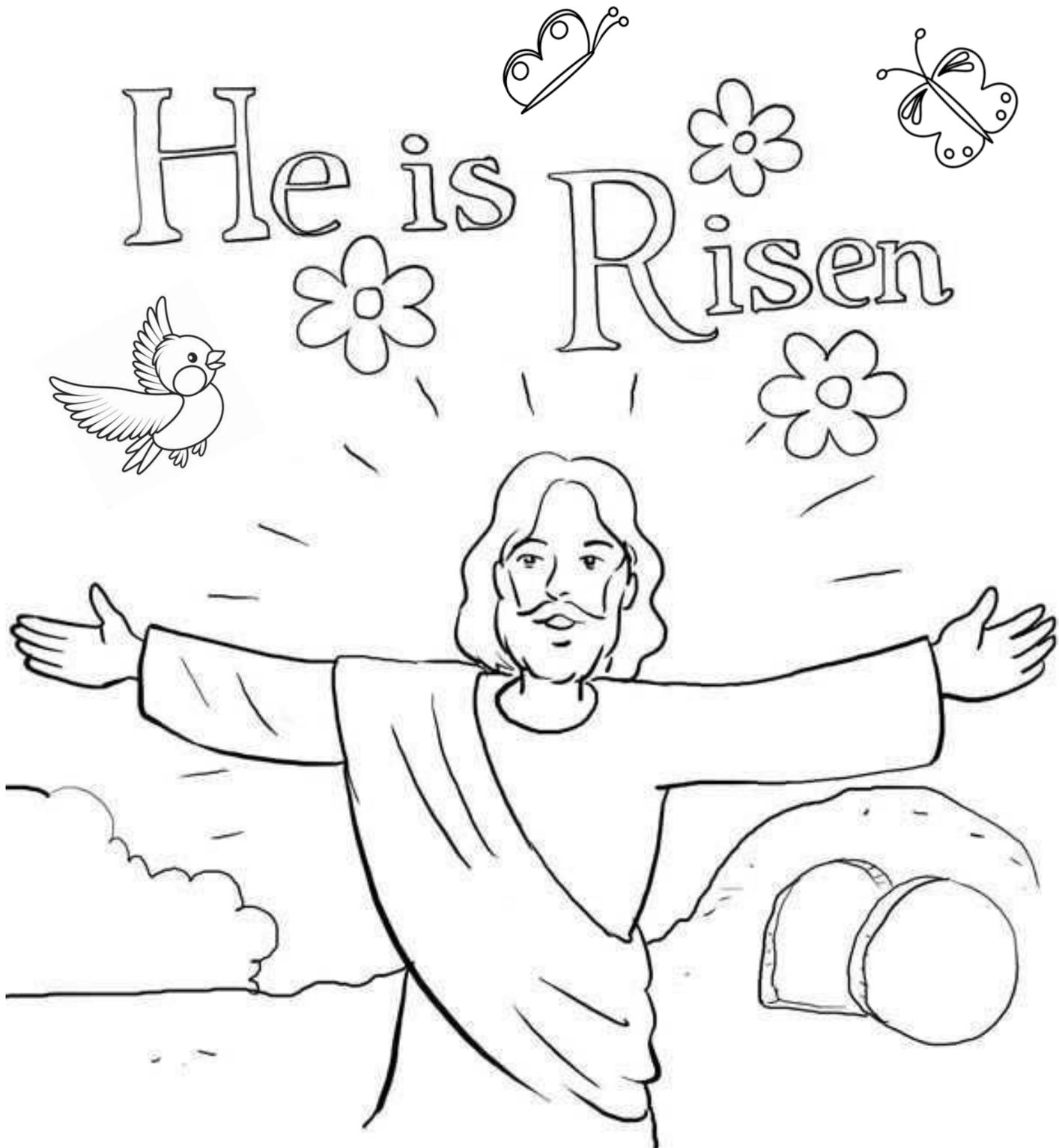
By Helen Steiner Rice

Let not your heart be troubled
Let not your soul be sad
Easter is a time of joy
When all hearts should be glad.

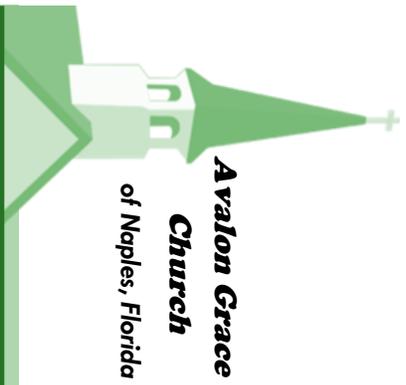
Glad to know that Jesus Christ
Made it possible for men
To have their sins forgiven
And, like Him, to live again.

So at this joyous season
May the wondrous Easter Story
Renew our Faith so we may be
Partakers of "His Glory!"

Coloring for Jesus



“And he saith unto them, be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.” - Mark 16:6 KJV



April 2022

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

9:45 Sunday Breakfast
10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

7:00 PM Bible Study

APRIL



- 1st Pat Crim
- 8th Willard Hedden
- 11th Susan Anderson
- 14th David Anderson
- 27th James Crim

COMING IN MAY 2022

- 1st 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast
- 8th Mother's Day

10 Palm Sunday
10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

7:00 PM Bible Study

10:30 AM Sunday Worship
The LORD'S Supper Observed
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

7:00 PM Bible Study



17 He is RISEN
10:30 AM Sunday Worship
The LORD'S Supper Observed
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

7:00 PM Bible Study

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

7:00 PM Bible Study