

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 25 Issue 4

April 2023



"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? (John 11:25- 26)"

As the Easter season comes around again, it gives us time to ponder the age-old story of Jesus and the cross. Why did Jesus have to suffer?

Rick Warren attempted to summarize Easter for us. "Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well-adjusted lives. His purpose is far deeper: He wants to make us like Himself before He takes us to heaven. This is our greatest privilege, our immediate responsibility, and our ultimate destiny."

Franklin Graham said, "We must not forget that it wasn't the Jews that put Him on the cross, and it wasn't the Romans. It was my sins, it was your sins, the sins of this world."

Consider that our old personal sin history ends with the cross, and our new history begins with the resurrection. All your wrongs have been forgiven and are blotted out from the records. Jesus suffered, was crucified, and rose again to give us a new start of eternal life with the Father in heaven. We are no longer a slave to sin.

The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in. Easter is a time to realize that "He really is risen." If He can rise again, so can we if we truly make Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Pastor Tom Emery

No Longer Slaves

Verse 1:

You unravel me, with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance, from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone

Chorus:

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

Verse 2

From my mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again, into a family
Your blood flows through my veins

Chorus:

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

Interlude:

I am surrounded
By the arms of the father
I am surrounded
By songs of deliverance
We've been liberated
From our bondage
We're the sons and the daughters
Let us sing our freedom

"No Longer Slaves" Bethel Music. [I AM They music link YouTube.](#)

Why Did Jesus Die?

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Why did Jesus have to die? — The punishment for sin is death.

God created earth and man perfect. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s commands, He had to punish them. A judge who pardons lawbreakers isn’t a righteous judge. Likewise, overlooking sin would make the holy God unjust. Death is God’s just consequence for sin. “For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Even good works cannot make up for wrongs against the holy God. Compared to His goodness, “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6b).

Ever since Adam’s sin, every human has been guilty of disobeying God’s righteous laws. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Sin is not just big things like murder or blasphemy, but also includes love of money, hatred of enemies, grudges, and deceit of tongue and pride. Because of sin, everyone has deserved death – eternal separation from God in hell.

Why did Jesus have to die? — The promise required an innocent death.

Although God banished Adam and Eve from the garden, He didn’t leave them without hope of reconciliation. He promised He would send a Savior to defeat the serpent (Genesis 3:15). Until then, men would sacrifice innocent lambs, showing their repentance from sin and faith in the future Sacrifice from God who would bear their penalty. God reaffirmed His promise of the Sacrifice with men such as Abraham and Moses.

Herein lies the beauty of God’s perfect plan: God Himself provided the only sacrifice (Jesus) who could atone for the sins of His people. God’s perfect Son fulfilled God’s perfect requirement of God’s perfect law. It is perfectly brilliant in its simplicity. “God made Him (Christ), who knew no sin, to be sin for us that we might

become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Why did Jesus have to die? — The prophets foretold Jesus’ death.

From Adam to Jesus, God sent prophets to mankind, warning them of sin’s punishment and foretelling the coming Messiah.

Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled in the perfect Lord Jesus, born of the virgin Mary. When the prophet John the Baptist saw Him, he cried, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).



Crowds gathered around Him for healing and teaching, but the religious leaders scorned Him. Mobs cried out, “Crucify Him!” Soldiers beat, mocked, and crucified Him. As Isaiah foretold, Jesus was crucified in between two criminals but was buried in a rich man’s tomb. But He didn’t remain in the grave. Because God accepted His Lamb’s

sacrifice, He fulfilled another prophecy by raising Jesus from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 26:19).

Why did Jesus have to die? Remember, the holy God cannot let sin go unpunished. To bear our own sins would be to suffer God’s judgment in the flames of hell. Praise God, He kept His promise to send and sacrifice the perfect Lamb to bear the sins of those who trust in Him. Jesus had to die because He is the only one who can pay the penalty for our sins.

Adapted from “Why did Jesus have to die?” GotQuestions.com

Where was Jesus for the Three Days between His Death and Resurrection?

After Jesus said, “It is finished,” on the cross, “he bowed his head and gave up his spirit” (John 19:30). His dead body remained on the cross until it was taken down and placed in a nearby tomb (John 19:40–42). His spirit, however, was elsewhere. Three days later, His body and spirit were reunited, and He rose from the dead (John 20). There is some speculation about where Jesus was—that is, where His spirit was—for the three days between His death and resurrection.

The clearest indication we have in Scripture of where

Jesus was between His death and resurrection comes in His conversation on the cross with one of the thieves crucified next to Him. The believing thief asks to be remembered when Jesus comes into His kingdom (Luke 23:42), and Jesus replies, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise” (verse 43). So, after His death, Jesus went to the place of blessing where God is—heaven. And that’s where the believing thief went, too.

In the discussion of where Jesus was for the three days between His death and resurrection, another passage is often mentioned. First Peter 3:18–20 says, “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed

to the spirits in prison because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared” (ESV). Some take this to mean that Jesus, sometime between His death and resurrection, went to hell/hades and made an announcement of some type to the “spirits” imprisoned there. Within this interpretation, the spirits Jesus addressed could be either demonic or human.

If the spirits mentioned in 1 Peter 3:19 are fallen angels, then those spirits were probably imprisoned because they were involved in a grievous sin before the flood in Noah’s time—Peter mentions Noah’s flood in verse 20. Peter does not tell us what Jesus proclaimed to the imprisoned spirits, but it could not have been a message of redemption, since angels cannot be saved (Hebrews 2:16). If these were fallen angels, what Jesus proclaimed was probably a declaration of His victory over Satan and his hosts (1 Peter 3:22; Colossians 2:15).

But there is another interpretation of the 1 Peter passage. In this interpretation, the “spirits” are people currently in hell, but Peter is not saying Jesus made a special trip to Hades/hell to preach or proclaim anything. Rather, Peter is giving parenthetical information about something Jesus had done previously in history, namely, that He had “in spirit” preached to the people of Noah’s day while they were still living on earth. That wicked generation heard the message, rejected it, perished in the flood, and are *now* in prison. The word *now* in 1 Peter 3:19 is provided for clarity in the Amplified Bible and the New American Standard Bibles of 1977 and 1995, and it contrasts with

the “long ago” (NIV) and “formerly” (ESV) of 1 Peter 3:20.

According to this alternate interpretation, Christ was in Noah (spiritually) when Noah preached to his doomed neighbors. To better explain, here is a paraphrase of 1 Peter 3:18–20: “Jesus was put to death in the flesh, but He was made alive in the Spirit (it was through this same Spirit that Jesus long ago preached to those who

are right now in prison—those souls who disobeyed during the time of God’s great patience when Noah was building the ark).” According to this view, Jesus preached *spiritually* to the people of Noah’s time, and He did this through the prophet Noah, in much the

same way that God speaks through us today when we proclaim God’s Word.

Ephesians 4:8–10 is another passage used in the discussion regarding Jesus’ activities in the three days between His death and resurrection. Quoting Psalm 68:18, Paul says about Christ, “When he ascended on high, he took many captives” (Ephesians 4:8). The ESV puts it that Christ “led a host of captives.” Some say this refers to an event not elsewhere described in Scripture, namely, that Jesus gathered all the redeemed who were in paradise and took them to their permanent dwelling in heaven. That is, after securing their salvation on the cross, Jesus brought Abraham, David, Joshua, Daniel, the beggar Lazarus, the thief on the cross, and everyone else who had previously been justified by faith, and led them from Hades (the abode of the dead in general) to their new spiritual home.

Another view of Ephesians 4 is that *ascended on high* is a straightforward reference to Jesus’ ascension. Christ returned to heaven victoriously, as God. In His triumph, Jesus had defeated and taken captive our spiritual enemies: the devil, death, and the curse of sin. All of this is to say that the Bible gives scant information about what exactly Christ did for the three days between His death and resurrection. The only thing we know for sure is that, according to Jesus’ own words on the cross, He went to paradise, and we can also say with confidence that, His work of redemption was finished.

Adapted from: “Where was Jesus for the three days between His death and resurrection?” GotQuestions.com



The Trusting Farmer

A pastor asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

“Lord, I hate buttermilk,” the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wondered where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.” Now the pastor was concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, “And Lord, You know I don’t much care for raw white flour.” The Pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room seemingly the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, “But Lord, when You mix them together and bake them, I do love fresh biscuits. So, Lord, when things come up to that we don’t understand what You’re saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until You are done mixing. It will probably be better than biscuits. Amen.”

Within that prayer is wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today.

Stay strong, my friends, because our Lord is mixing several things that we don’t really care for, but something even better is going to come when He is done with it. Amen

Contributed by Dave Rees

Sights of Salem



2-23 03-05 St. David's Day meal held by youth group workers fundraising.



2023-03-07 Women's Bible Study

The Music Committee Update

We have secured a conductor for our 2023 Gymanfa. Ben Williams from Lexington, Kentucky has agreed to join us on Sunday, September 3, 2023, as our Gymanfa guest conductor.

As an update for the Carillons, they have been fully installed by Lima Pipe Organ. The chimes have been playing and some adjustments have been made. We look forward to dedicating this beautiful gift soon and will keep you updated on that date. We would like to sincerely thank everyone for their monetary gifts that helped to complete this project.

Finally, we are working with a different sound engineer to improve the sound quality of the Facebook Live transmission of the Sunday service. Please bear with us as we try different ways of running the sound.



2023-03-12 St David's Day Bell Choir Special Music.



2023-03-The Confirmation Class giving St David's presentations.



2023-03-19 Morgan McConnel was "the Woman who Washed Jesus' Feet" for the Lent Skit, and Dave Lust played "Deep River" for Special Music.



2023-03-22 Senior Luncheon with Kim Coil and Marlin Foust in serving costumes.



2023-03-12 Pastor Tom (with wife, Carol) at the surprise birthday party for Pastor Tom after the service.



2023-03-26 Colin Fokine singing "Come Ye Blessed." 2023-03-05 Heather McClure sang Special Music for St. David's Day.



Weekly Lenten Skit Series: Denise Pugh was the "Woman at the Well." Dave Rees was "Nicodemus."

Church Financial Update

Prayerfully consider donating to Salem Church. Offerings should be mailed to the church at:

Salem United Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 678
 Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Needed to Date: \$28,335.20
 Received to Date: \$36,718.00

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

“Young at Heart”

John Lloyd

20155 Venedocia-Eastern
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marilyn Stockton

Lochhaven Apt 220
1640 Allentown Rd
Lima, OH 45805

Bartie Jones

Parkvue Healthcare Ctr
3800 Boardwalk Blvd
Sandusky, OH 44870

Paul & Doris Price

18890 Bebb St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Charles Boroff

311 West 4th Street
Apt. 104
Odessa, Texas 79761

Marjorie Eutsler

15044 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

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

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler

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

Sgt. Micah Linger,

(U.S. Marine Corps)
814 Strawberry Hill Rd. E
Columbus, OH 43213

Madison Pugh-USCGA

8800 Pine Forest Rd
Apt 6303
Pensacola, FL 32534

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)

Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Gyer Blackmore (Army)

Grandson of Gwenda
Blackmore

Away at College

Landon Price. Ohio State University,
160 Woodruff, Columbus, Ohio 43210

Evan Pugh University of Pikeville
147 Sycamore St, Pikeville, KY 41501

Isaiah Pugh University of Toledo
3030 Residence Drive, Ottawa East Room 4205-A
Toledo, OH 43606

Condolences

Condolences to the family of Gary Adams

Birthdays

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

Prayer Concerns

Edie Basham (back surgery)
Marion Morris's daughter
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (cancer)
Dave Burnett (heart)
Lynn Collins (cancer)
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair (cancer)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye & knee issues)
Diana Glass (cancer)
Jane Harter

Jerry Holscher
Mandolin Jones (cancer)
Tony Kahle
John Lloyd
Steve Martz
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Wayne McMichael
David Morris (Zeb)
Paul & Doris Price
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Tori Wells (spine surgery)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

April 2023

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Worship Four Communicates join church. One Great Hour of Sharing offering	3	4 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	5	6 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Living Truth Ministries at 1180 S Washington St Van Wert, OH	7	8
9 Easter 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Flower the Cross 9:30 Worship Communion 5:00 Trustee Meeting	10	11 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	12	13 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Living Truth Ministries at 1180 S Washington St Van Wert, OH	14	15
16 9:30 AM Worship w/guest Speaker Harry Tolhurst	17	18 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	19	20 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Living Truth Ministries at 1180 S Washington St Van Wert, OH	21	22
23 9:30 AM Worship Communion 10:45 Session Meeting	24	25 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	26 Noon-Senior Luncheon	27 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Living Truth Ministries a 1180 S Washington St Van Wert, OH	28	29
30 9:30 AM Worship						

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
April 2	Michael & Lindsay Breese	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Connie O'Neill
April 9	Kevin & Kristen Price	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Dave VanTilburg
April 16	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	LaDonna Allenbaugh
April 23	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	LaDonna Allenbaugh
April 30	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Seth Baker
		Greeter:	Rex Lloyd

*Salem Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 678
15240 Main Street
Venedocia, Ohio 45894*



2023-03-19 Piper Finn lighting service candles before the service.

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 2023
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR C**

Palm/Passion Sunday – Apr 2

Isa. 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16
Phil. 2:5-11	Matt. 26:14-27:66

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day – Apr 9

Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Col. 3:1-4	Matt. 28:1-10

2nd Sunday of Easter – Apr 16

Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 16
1 Pet. 1:3-9	John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter – Apr 23

Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Pet. 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35

4th Sunday of Easter – Apr 30

Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23
1 Pet. 2:19-25	John 10:1-10