



The Link

April 2021

“In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. . . “

1 Peter 1:3

The tomb is empty. It is a fact of history, and we know that because of God's great power, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Over and over on that first Resurrection Sunday, we hear angels and people saying, “He is risen!” or “I have seen the Lord!” or “Why do you seek for the living among the dead?” or “Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus Who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tells His disciples that He has risen from the dead.” Talk about emotional whiplash, from grief when the women go to the tomb early hoping to anoint a dead body, and instead find an empty tomb, and life and joy. The huge round stone, six feet in diameter, is rolled away; the Roman seal, broken; the soldiers guarding the tomb, stunned; and the slab where Jesus' body had been placed as a temporary burial until after the Sabbath, empty. Well, not quite empty, His head covering and His graveclothes are still there, not unwound but lying neatly in layers, as if His body had dematerialized out of them and they collapsed on themselves. The empty tomb, the empty graveclothes and the post-resurrection encounters with Jesus – over 500 of them – testify over and over and over that Christ is risen from the dead. His complete victory over sin, and

death, and hell, and oh, by the way, the devil, is also our victory. Our victory. Because as wonderful as it is to have the atonement and forgiveness of the cross of Christ, even better is that His grace fits us for eternity. The blessing we get is the forever gift of eternal life. Once we have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, we also get into Heaven forever, on His grace. Resurrection power is the power of eternal life.

That makes the devil very angry; his great plan to destroy the Christ backfired when Jesus was raised and glorified eternally in a perfect body with the power of an indestructible life. The enemy's unremitting campaign against the humans God loves was disarmed and exposed, and he was defeated. Yet misery loves company and that ol' devil is still trying to take as many of us with him to hell as he can, working hard to keep us from seeing the cross, from seeing the empty tomb. But we will not be blinded by his rage. It is Sunday, early on the third day, and Christ is risen from the dead. Look at the cross, the bloodstained cross, look into the empty tomb, and rejoice, because you are forgiven, freed, and destined for eternity. Let the devil rage; his anger is impotent. For Christ is risen from the dead, and His victory is ours.

Have a blessed Resurrection Sunday,

Pastor Beth Stone

(Photo of the Garden Tomb in Israel)

Church News

An **Easter Egg Hunt** with sack lunches & treats will be held Saturday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m. for all the children of the church. Masks and social distancing will be required.

Community Sunrise Service will be held at 7 a.m. at Buffalo Springs Cemetery in the shelter.

Session highlights: Session has authorized the purchase of a mini-bus for church use. Funds will come from the van fund and from the Mary Jo Morrow bequest.

The **memorial service for Ann Erwin** will be held on April 24, 2021 at 1 p.m. at Danville Presbyterian Church. All are welcome to attend.

An **afternoon tea** is being planned for Saturday, May 8th for the ladies of our community, with fellowship and fun, activities, music, and guest speaker Jenny Smith. (www.jennysmithrollson.com). Plan to join us then.

Stanford Presbyterian Church

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Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

Website: www.stanfordpresbyterian.org

Find us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/stanfordpresbyterianchurch/

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Reverend Elizabeth Stone, pastor

Spring Calendar 2021

Tuesdays: AA

Wednesdays: Sr. High Revive – 6 p.m.

Choir – 7 p.m.

April

- 1 – Maundy Thursday, communion
- 3 – Easter Egg hunt 11:00 a.m.
- 4 – Resurrection Sunday
Sunrise Service at the cemetery
Worship at 11 with communion
- 6 – Mary Circle
- 15 – Martha Circle
- 18 – Deacons meet
Barley Basket
- 24 – Ann Erwin's Memorial Service
- 25 – Session meets

May

- 2 – Food Pantry offering
- 4 – Mary Circle
- 6 – National Day of Prayer
- 8 – Ladies' afternoon tea
- 9 – Mother's Day
- 13 – Martha Circle
- 23 – Pentecost – Wear Red!
Session meets
Barley Basket
- 31 – Memorial Day

June

- 1 – Mary Circle
- 5 – Sam Rochester funeral
- 6 – Food Pantry offering
- 10 – Martha Circle
- 13 – Deacons meet
- 20 – Barley Basket
Father's Day
- 27 – session meets