

Kingston Church of Christ

Meeting at 446 College St., Kingston, ON K7L 4M7
www.kingstonchurchofchrist.ca
613-546-5409
KingstonChurchofChrist@yahoo.com
Every member a minister

April 11, 2021

Quote of the Week:

"The Holy Spirit is not a blessing from God, He is God."

—Colin Urquhart

Let's Keep Praying For

- Robyn's family as their Mom leaves this life
- Ron C as he continues his recovery at home
- Levi's recovery
- Alex as she faces ongoing health issues
- Ruby during stem cell transplant
- Anne
- Joan
- Brian as he struggles with Tinnitus
- Betty, in long term care home
- Dan's father, Tim F
- Chad's parents Marilyn and Roy. Health issues

**Now meeting virtually
at 10:00 a.m. Sundays**

Read the New Testament in a Year: April 12-18, 2021.

Mon John 9
Tues John 10
Wed John 11:1-45
Thurs John 11:46-12:19
Fri John 12:20-50
Sat John 13
Sun make-up day

News:

April Birthdays

12 Spenser

13 Joyce

Alex Knip reports that she is improving following her brain surgery. While she is hesitant to get too hopeful, as the relief of the pain has continued we hope she won't suffer any relapses.

The **Central Church of Christ** in Winnipeg, MB is inviting us to join their Spiritual Growth, Renewal, and Outreach Weekend. It's a free zoom seminar April 30 to May 2. See Poster on bulletin board. Register at [Winnipegchurch.ca/grow2021](https://winnipegchurch.ca/grow2021) or get information about connecting by phone when you call Jay Manimtim at (204) 515-7415.

See more details at <https://winnipegchurch.ca/grow2021/>

Contributions: send to churchcollege@yahoo.com or leave in box in foyer.

Key to the Kingdom – Fridays 8:30 am on Vision TV

Passover & Pascha/Easter: Festivals of Divine Grace

Festivals in Israel, and even in the early church, had several functions. They gathered God's People to worship. Worship is intended to be communal. The festivals taught the people the "word of God." You see no one in Israel, or the first 1400 years of the church for that matter, owned personal copies of the Bible. No one went home "from church" to read the Bible prior to Gutenberg. This is a significant fact.

Festivals like the Sabbath, Trumpets, Unleavened Bread ... and "Pascha/Easter" served the practical function of teaching God's People the STORY, that is the WORD of God. In fact through the Festivals of Worship the historical word became the Living Word as God's people dramatically re-enacted the Story of Redemption. Suddenly the flight from Egypt was not something you heard read to you, it was something you participated in dramatically. Those who complain about "drama" in worship have limited historical understandings of what "worship" was like in Israel, and for centuries among Christians. Drama *preached* the Word. Unleavened bread/Passover, for example, in one dramatic "production" preaches the Story of the book of Exodus.

Unleavened Bread/Passover celebrates the astonishing steadfast love (*hesed*) and grace of Yahweh for a group of slaves deemed so worthless that the state sanctioned the murder of their infant boys. The feast/festival proclaims the care, mercy and involvement of Yahweh for the "least of these." The festival culminates in the Passover which proclaims the greatest act of grace in the history of the world until the incarnation of Jesus. It is the story of the Gospel of the Exodus.

God saves.

We get saved.

God redeems.

We do not redeem ourselves.

No Jew shares in these festivals because they are worthy. They participate because they were invited by grace.

Unleavened bread/Passover is mentioned frequently in our written Scriptures. We read of it in Exodus 12.15-20; Leviticus 23.6-8; Deuteronomy 16.3-16; 2 Chronicles 30.23-27; Ezra 6.21-22; etc, etc.

The festival was important in the development of Jesus. Luke tells us his family traveled to Jerusalem annually for the festival (Lk 2.41). John depicts Jesus walking to Jerusalem regularly for the festival.

The apostle James was martyred by Herod during the festival of Unleavened Bread (Acts 12.3). The apostle Paul celebrated Unleavened Bread/Passover with his fellow Jewish disciples (Acts 20.5-6). Paul even told the Corinthian church to “*celebrate the festival*” (1 Cor 5.8) though scholars argue about what this means.

But most importantly, Unleavened Bread/Passover became the occasion for the Messiah’s New Exodus through his death, burial and resurrection.

The festival is eight days long. Christians have called this week “holy week” since at least the third century AD. It is “holy” in that the events of the greatest moment of redemption in the Hebrew Bible took place AND the the greatest moments of redemption in the history of the world took place. This week changed cosmic history.

During the festival the Hallel Psalms (Pss 113-118) are sung (Mt 26.30) and the Song of Songs is read out loud on the Sabbath during the Passover.

As we head through this week that remembers such momentous events I encourage you to read the following:

- 1) Story of the Exodus (Exodus 1-15)
- 2) Psalms 113-118
- 3) Song of Songs
- 4) Matthew 21-25

Passover – Pascha – Easter – God cares for the powerless and the aliens. That is why God delivered Israel. God loves the powerless and the aliens. That is why Jesus celebrated the Passover and became the Lamb of God.

-Bobby Valentine