

Worship services are being cancelled until further notice because of Covid-19. However, we will have worship services through the Internet Zoom platform every Sunday at 10:30 AM. The Zoom link for this service will be sent to you by email. The phone number for Zoom always remains the same but the Meeting ID and password number changes every week. If you need more information, please contact Mr. Vautour. See the bottom of the bulletin the contact information.

If you have friends or acquaintances who want to join in the worship service, please do not hesitate to share with them the Zoom links to join with us in the worship our great God.

The National GCI services will be at 1:00 p.m. each Sunday. The Zoom link for this service will be sent to you by email. The phone number for Zoom always remains the same but the Meeting ID changes every week.

For more information about special activities happening in GCI, please see the international website at www.gci.org. On the left-hand upper side of the screen, you will see 3 short lines. You simply need to click on it. A drop down menu will appear. Click on **"PARTICIPATE"**.

If you have a prayer requests, other events you would like to announce and/or praise to our great God you would like to share, **please try to contact Mr. Vautour by email, text or telephone no later than Saturday in the morning.**

Certainly, we all need to realize, during this time of crisis, that even if situations appear bleak and evil appears strong, God is still the ruler yet. Jesus sustains all things we are clearly told in Colossians. We could not be in more loving hands! Although we may go through temporary troubles, we have to always keep in mind the hope we have in Jesus.

We need to pray for our civil leaders, those in high positions as well as Christian religious leaders to give appropriate leadership as we traverse difficult periods. God tells us to pray for all people and to do good to everyone especially those of the household of God. (**"1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior," (1Ti 2:1-3 ESV)**

We all need to remember that this fallen world system will one day be replaced by the fullness of the kingdom of God. Only God knows when Jesus will return to the earth. (**"3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."** (Ga 1:3-5 ESV)

For prayer requests, please see www.worshipim.ca under "Members Only". If you have forgotten password for this section only, please contact Mr. Vautour.

If anybody has an older functioning laptop that they are not using and would want to give it away, we could send it to Josephine and James in Kenya. The one we send them several years ago is not working anymore. Their access to a computer is difficult as they have to go to a public place to receive their emails.

There will be a Bible study Thursday, April 16. Topic: to continue in 1st John. *Anybody is welcome to join.* Please feel free to share Zoom link. Mr. Vautour will send you the link before the study.

Offerings: you can send your offering directly to the following address: **Grace Communion International- Canada, Suite 203A, 2121 Airport Dr., Saskatoon, SK 7S1 6W5.** If you prefer, you can also call **1-306-653-2705.** Thank you for your continued generous giving to God by giving to this part of God's church, his body.

From Mr. Bill Hall – GCI Canadian Director *"Our office here in Saskatoon will remain open during regular business hours. I'm self isolating for a couple of weeks, but Kathleen will be available. We will continue to process the donations we receive in Saskatoon. Members are urged to mail them directly to our office for the time-being. They can also donate via phone using a credit card, or via Canada Helps using the donate button on our website www.gcicanada.ca We are waving the provision that all donations given via Canada Helps go toward national expenses for the time being. We will credit all donations received via Canada Helps to a member's local congregation, if we can identify where they attend."*

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS: OUR RESURRECTION WITH CHRIST (From <https://www.qci.org/articles/our-resurrection-with-christ/>)

Each year, we celebrate that Christ our Lord has risen — and he is alive forevermore as our Savior, our Intercessor and our King. When we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, we are also reminded of the promise of our own resurrection. When we by faith are united to Christ, then we share in his life, in his death, in his resurrection and in his glory. This is our *identity*. Notice how often Paul says that we are *with* Christ:

- **Rom. 6:4-8** We were crucified with him, died with him, buried with him and united with him in his death.
- **Rom. 6:5, 8** We will live with him, united with him in his resurrection.
- **Rom. 8:17** We are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.
- **Rom. 8:17** If we share in his sufferings, we will also share in his glory.
- **Gal. 2:20** We have been crucified with Christ, and he lives in us.
- **Eph. 2:5-6** God made us alive with Christ, God raised us up with Christ, and seated us with him in the heavenly realms.
- **Col. 2:12** We have been buried with him in baptism.
- **Col. 2:12-13** God raised us and made us alive with Christ, through faith.
- **Col. 2:20** We died with Christ to the basic principles of this world.
- **Col. 3:1** We have been raised with Christ.
- **Col. 3:3** Our life is now hidden with Christ in God.
- **Col. 3:4** When Christ appears, we will appear with him in glory.
- **1 Thess. 5:10** He died for us so that we may live together with him.
- **2 Tim. 2:11** If we died with him, we will also live with him.
- **2 Tim. 2:12** If we endure, we will also reign with him.

When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, our lives become hidden in him, and we are with him — where he was, where he is now, and where he will be in the future. When he appears, we will be with him. We will be united with him in his resurrection, and we will reign with him in his glory. We participate with him, share with him in his life, as pictured in the Lord's Supper.

This way of speaking may sound strange today. The scientific worldview trains people to look for things that can be seen and measured with physical instruments. but Paul is speaking of unseen realities, of spiritual truths that are beyond physical investigation. He is saying that there is more to our existence, and more to our identity, than can be seen with the eyes.

Although human eyes could not see us being buried with Christ, the reality is that we were. And human eyes did not see us in the resurrection of Christ, but the reality is that we were resurrected in him. Though our eyes cannot see the future, we know that it is also a reality: we will be resurrected, reigning with Christ, living with Christ forever, sharing in his glory, being served by the angels!

Christ is the firstfruits, and *in him* everyone will be made alive (**1 Cor. 15:22**). Christ is the forerunner, the proof that the promise will be fulfilled for each of us who are united to him. The resurrection is indeed wonderful news for each of us — a central plank of the gospel message itself. If there is no future life, if there is no reward in store for our troubles, then our faith is fraudulent, our message is a mistake. But it is not a mistake — Christ indeed has risen. He is reigning in glory, and he will come again, and we will be with him in glory.

But notice in the verses above that there is a price that must be paid. We must be with Christ in his sufferings, too. We must endure in order to reign. Paul put it this way: **"I want to know Christ...and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead"** (**Phil. 3:10-11**).

Press on toward the goal, Paul exhorts (**vs. 14-15**). **"Our citizenship is in heaven,"** he reminds us.

“And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who...will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!” (vs. 20-21).

My friends, I also love you. Press onward, knowing that our reward is being prepared for us in heaven! When the Lord Jesus returns, we will rise to be with him forever — in glory we can only *begin* to imagine. Stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! Pressing on requires us to have patience, but it is difficult to be patient in the “fast lane, instant food, expressway” society in which we live. But let’s remember that God’s Spirit grants us patience when we draw closer to him.

Jesus commands, **“Go and make disciples...and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19-20)**. Disciples of Jesus are followers of Jesus, people who have made a decisive commitment to learn from him and be like him. That is why teaching and learning plays such a vital role in the church. Leaders are entrusted to teach the church what Jesus taught and how it applies to us all, so that we might become increasingly more apt and faithful disciples of Jesus.

Evangelism comes naturally from a body of faithful, devoted, committed and worshipping disciples. Being the people God has called us to be — brothers and sisters of Jesus, led and motivated by his love — is the primary way the good news is spread. It is far more effective for people to come to know and see Jesus at work in his people than it is to merely hear a message from a relative stranger with no concrete demonstration of its real power to bring the joy and peace of God. That is why we continue to emphasize the need for Christ’s love among us.

I know that our brethren want to love God and work together for the kingdom. The devil would like for us to believe that we are defeated, but he is only a liar. God has given us the victory, and we do not have to feel like all is lost. Jesus is risen! He is on his throne, and he loves us as much today as he ever has. He will do his work in us.

Let us stand together with him, and trust him to lead us into knowing God more, loving God more and loving one another more. Our true reward lies beyond the present moment, but we can experience more and more the blessings of the kingdom even now, as we commit to be Jesus’ disciples and walk in his love for the Father and for one another.

Author: Joseph Tkach

Anticipation Fulfilled

“This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

1 Corinthians 11:23 (NRSV)

If you were to sum up the Old Testament in one word, what would it be? One candidate could be *anticipation*. Scripture tells us that in the very beginning, through an act of wonderful grace, God created all things. However, the pinnacle of creation, humanity, rejected a life of resting in his grace. They wanted to call the shots, but alas, their desires brought disaster. Back in Genesis, God promised that he would rescue us from this mess with the Messianic passage that the woman’s offspring will crush the serpent’s head, generally thought to refer to Jesus (**Genesis 3:15**). This promise was given focus in the life of Abraham (**Genesis 12:3**) and then in the calling of Old Testament Israel. Through every history, prophecy and psalm, the Old Testament grew in anticipation that God’s salvation was on its way. Old Testament Israel seemed to have more failures than successes; again human desires refused to live a life under grace. But this did not dent the anticipation; every failure only fueled the desire for God’s promise to be fulfilled.

And then Jesus turned up. If there is one word that can sum up the New Testament, then it is *Jesus*. To our surprise, God’s answer for the mess caused by humanity is Himself. Somehow, God becomes human: we know him as Jesus Christ. In fact in **Luke 24:27 “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”** We find that all those hints and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled by him. Interestingly, the Old Testament makes more sense in light of him.

There is something that Christians do which brings this key message together in one moment. Some call it Communion; others the Lord’s Supper or the Eucharist. In that one moment all eyes turn to Jesus. The bread and wine vividly remind us of his past sacrifice on the Cross. **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11:25)**. This event also points us forward to when we will sit down together at the marriage supper of the Lamb. And right now, today, we are reminded that we do not worship an absent God. Through the Spirit, Christ is with us as we eat and drink.

The promise fulfilled. Anticipation realised. Jesus is God’s answer to humanity’s disaster. Together, let us eat the bread and drink the wine, with our eyes firmly on Jesus. For he is the fulfilment of all things; through Jesus, God is restoring his grace to the world.

Prayer

Father, turn ours eyes towards Jesus. Let us see him as the fulfilment of all your promises. Let our hope of the future be centered on him and let our lives today be a response to his presence in and with us. We ask this in his name, the only

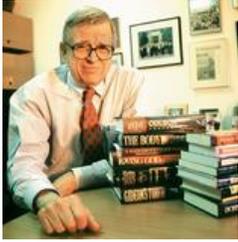
name through which we see salvation, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Study by Ian Woodley (is an Elder and Pastoral Council member of the Edinburgh Congregation of Grace Communion International, UK.)

The Fact of the Resurrection

(from <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes>)



"I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world- and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

GCI principle website and Moncton Websites—www.gci.org, www.worshipim.ca, www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton;
For a wealth of helpful articles about God, grace and his plan for salvation, who we are, etc., please see the GCI.org website.

Contact Information: Pastor's contact information: email— evautour47@outlook.com

Cell: 506.874.6765