

welcome

At Gateway it is our mission to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our doctrine is simple; we just want to follow Jesus like Christians did in the New Testament. We have a variety of spiritual, relational, and inspirational activities throughout the St. Louis metro area. For more information visit us at gatewaycitychurch.com or scan the QR code for our church app.

upcoming events

- **Women's Midweek (Wednesday April 24th, 7pm)** Come and hear our own Yolanda Suber share her testimony and how she relates to Abel's desire to "give God your very best".
- **Singles Fun Outing (Saturday April 27th)** Join us as we explore the Earth Day Celebration at Forest Park! Contact Patricia Payne for details.
- **Gateway Gaming Ministry (Saturday April 27th, 6-9pm)** For all ages 6+. Come and play 1/2 hour (or so) games and make new friends.

For more info:

calendar.gatewaycitychurch.info

I'm new: what to expect

We're glad you're here! Worship begins at 10am. If the sanctuary is full, additional seating with live video streaming has been set up in our Fellowship Hall.

Church service typically lasts 75-90 minutes. At Gateway we take communion every Sunday; you are also welcome to take communion if you'd like to do so. Like other churches we also take up a weekly offering, however most of our members prefer to give their contribution online through our app, or via "Text 2 Give".

Gateway Kids offers free childcare upstairs each Sunday during the church service. We feature age-appropriate, action-based Bible lessons for children ages 3 months through 5th grade.

If you enjoy the service and would like to go deeper, we would love for you to join one of our weekly small group Bible studies. Talk to one of our ushers or staff members after service for more information.

resources

All phone numbers also accept text messages.
9300 Stansberry Avenue (63134)
314.653.1615

Vince Hawkins - Lead Minister 573.489.6573
Robin Hawkins - Women's Ministry Leader
573.489.6719

Elders:

Lu Garcia: 314.952.7308
Tink Sullivan: 573.528.7568

Text 2 Give

Text "Give \$1" to 314.384.9099

Marrieds

Jeff & Julie Hovey 314.698.3036
Steve & Stacy Blassingame 314.489.2512

College

Jeff Hughes: 314.660.5418
Rani Singh: 608.445.7778

Singles

Alex Hanna: 314.302.5065
Rebecca Schneider: 314-691-4037

Youth & Family/High School Ministry

Jeff & Shelly Ryan 469.417.9054

Middle School

Karanja & Denise Kiburi 314.249.6682

Gateway Kids

John Rosario 314.732.8687



Wifi: Gateway

Pass: gateway.church



facebook.com/gatewayctychrch



Easter Sunday: The Ultimate Origin Story

In most epic movie franchises—Marvel, Star Wars, DC, Lord of the Rings—there is an origin story. How the hero became a hero. Over the course of about two hours, we follow the hero's humble beginnings until the climactic moment that they assume their new identity.

In our celebration and understanding of Easter, we come to what we think is the climatic ending to the wonderful story of Jesus — his birth, ministry, death and resurrection. We come to the end of Lent and Holy Week. We ask, "What is next? Is there any more of the story?"

But if we look at the Bible story, it really has no ending. The Old Testament development of the Jewish people continued into the New Testament and is very evident today. The Old Testament prophecies point to the coming of Christ as Christ establishes his church. The church continues today with its unfinished story of our part in the redemption of the world and Christ's second coming.

If we are truly followers of Jesus, Easter and resurrection are not the ending of the story, only the beginning. The story of Emmanuel, "God with us," begun at Bethlehem continues. There is a dark pause at the crucifixion as the universe holds its breath, but the Easter resurrection is the resumption of the story, the story of God's never-ending love for his people. The story is not over until God says it is over.

So, we ask ourselves, "What's next? What are you and I to do with this Easter story? How are we to take resurrection and fit it into our daily lives?" In our

scripture for today, John gives us a quick look into the life of the resurrected Christ, life after Good Friday. Christ not only defeated death and triumphed over the devil, but he also returned to us.

Jesus could have left without a word. Instead, he breathed his Holy Spirit upon us and empowered us to follow him all the days of our lives. Jesus continues to return to us and strengthen us in our weakness, discouragement and humanity. He returns day after day to cleanse us from unrighteousness, to call us and to raise us from our deadly slavery to sin.

In John 20:19-31, Jesus tells us that Easter is not over, it has only begun. If we are to be "Easter" people, we are not to sit comfortably behind closed, locked doors of our churches and be content that we are the church. Jesus didn't say, "Happy Easter." He said, "Fear not! Embrace my peace!" Jesus didn't say, "God bless you all. Look how nice and comfortable you all look." He said, "I'm back, and I have much for you to do, places for you to go and things I want you to say to the whole world. Get up and get busy!"

What about our tomorrow? Next week? And the rest of the year? Has this Lenten season and Easter made any difference in our relationship with Christ? Has the resurrection stirred us to realize that this is not the end of Jesus' story or the end of our story? What about our decision to become one of Jesus' disciples? Have we let daily life take the sharp edge off our relationship with Jesus?

Easter is in the "now" tense. It is about following Jesus now. It is about living as if God is victorious, unstoppable and triumphant now. Easter is not so much, "Do you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead?" but, "Will you dare to follow Jesus now that he rules?" Easter moves us quickly from the doctrinal statement, "He is risen," to a calling, "Go into your family, community and the world and do something about it. You are 'sent' people, so go and tell my story."

So, in Easter, the story continues within the lives of each one for the rest of our lives and beyond. God is not finished with us. The story is alive. Easter is not over until God says so.