

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
San Antonio, Texas



CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

WORSHIP, CONNECT, SERVE

*Experiencing life abundant
through **worshipping** God,
connecting with each other
and the community, and
serving others.*

Michael's Mind



Jesus was rough on the Scribes and Pharisees. The entire 23rd chapter of the Gospel of Matthew defines their sin as being a “Hypocrite”. I do not suppose I know a person who wants to be known as a hypocrite. It is a transliteration of a Greek word, “upokritays”. Literally, “an interpreter from underneath”. You see, Greek actors wore masks to display their characters on a stage. One definition for a hypocrite is rendered “a mask-wearer or a game player”.

More recently, a definition for a hypocrite is a person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion, or, a person who acts in contradiction to his/her stated beliefs or feelings. Synonyms for hypocrite include fraud, fake, pretender, phony, imposter, etc. I do not know of a political party that can legitimately claim to be free from hypocrisy. Politicians flip and flop like a fish out of water on the bank, depending on whether they are speaking about a member of their ilk or the opposition party. Newscasters are no longer journalists, they are hypocrites, partisan hacks. And clergy from just about every faith group I know, whether liberal, conservative, woke or traditional, quickly fall into the traps of hypocrisy. Jesus was on to something when He warned all of us to practice what we preach. He warned us to be less concerned about the speck in our neighbor's eye and more about the log in our own.

Learning to become consistent in our faith walk will entail the spiritual exorcism of our political partisanship. This cut both ways. We need to be seekers of the truth. Not “your truth and my truth”, but the truth. It used to be that science and faith were to be seekers and proclaimers of the truth. With the politicizing of both science and religion...we have become mask-wearers and game players on topics such as COVID-19 policy, and historical critical thinking, and the definitions of justice and the will of God. I am pretty certain it was Jesus who said, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free!” (Jn. 8:32) In the same Gospel Jesus proclaimed, “I am the way and the truth and the life”. (John 14:6) At least, as Christ followers, we should keep our hearts set not on political theory and partisanship, but on seeking and finding “the way, the truth, and the life.”



C.S. Lewis, the great Christian apologist of the 20th Century said, “Christianity does not involve the belief that all things were made for man. It does involve the belief that **God loves man and for his sake, became man and died.**”

Easter is our special holiday that celebrates our belief that God became man, died for us, was resurrected, and defeated death, and in doing so, provided for every single one of us to be restored to a personal relationship with God Himself.

What do we mean when we say that the Son of God died? Was he just separated from his human nature? Did Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, cease to exist for a period of time? If God’s master plan included Jesus being slain before the foundation of the world, how is it possible Jesus is God and Jesus is slain? Biblical death means our body and soul are separated. We do not stop existing. This separation is our inner person (also called our soul) being separated from our physical body. Biblical death also means that those who are separated from God when they die, remain separated from Him after physical death.

On the cross, Jesus’ physical body was destroyed by the crucifixion. His humanity was torn apart. He carried all the sins of the world for everyone except Himself, for which He suffered the wrath of God that was due every human except him. Fellowship between the Father and the Son was broken, even though the Father loved the Son and the Son trusted the Father. His most painful experience was as He died physically, He experienced separation from God the Father. Jesus died at the cross, but He did not cease to exist. Consequently, neither will you or I cease to exist when we die. In Jesus’ death, God provides us our salvation.

Jesus Christ not only died for all, but He died for each of us. However, He was resurrected. Jesus Christ did not say, “I am finished.” He said, “It is finished.” He was just getting started! His resurrection was just the beginning... Chuck Colson, former White House Counsel to Richard Nixon who pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice in the Watergate scandal and later became a national evangelical leader stated, “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 proclaim 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.”

It wasn’t the nails that kept Jesus on the cross. He could have called down a hundred thousand angels to attend to him.... No it was not the nails, it was his love for you and me. He voluntarily took our place on the cross... There is no greater love than this!

Jesus healed the one who arrested Him, served the one who betrayed Him, and loved the world who crucified Him. Jesus was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our inequities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed... “He {Jesus} disarmed the rulers and authorities {Satan and his princes} and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.” (Colossians 2:15)... There is no greater love than this!

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11. “The thief {referring to Satan} comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they {YOU} may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10... There is no greater love than this!

CCC APRIL 2021 PRAYER CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>1 Thursday</u>	<u>2 Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
“What wings are to a bird and sails to a ship, so is	prayer to the soul” -Connie Ten Boom			Pray for a revived spirit of service, outreach and love to others	Pray we remember the pain Jesus suffered for us- ask for His forgiveness	3 Pray that your heart will always be tuned to God and all His ways
4 <u>Easter</u> Praise the Lord that He sent His Son to give us everlasting life, joy and light	5 Ask God to help you proclaim His love to those around you everyday	6 Ask God to help you apply the Golden Rule in ALL aspects of your life	7 Pray for Jesus to come into your life giving you His love & peace always	8 Ask God to heal the broken places in your heart	9 Pray that we become kinder to others and help them when we can	10 Pray for quiet in our minds so we can hear God in our hearts
11 Thank God He gave us his Son to always be with us in Spirit; so, we may abide in His love	12 Pray for our Food Bank volunteers & help to add to its provisions & good works	13 Pray for all families to stay strong & faithful while waiting out this pandemic	14 Ask God to help you ease your anger and replace it with peace	15 Ask God for strength as you face challenges each day for He will give you courage	16 Pray for dear friends who have lost beloved family and show them you care	17 Ask God to help you use your gifts to be a friend to others in need
18 Ask God to help you step out in faith to others so they too may know His love	19 Thank God for our grandparents who love us without reservation	20 Thank God for His miracles we receive each day thru His love for us	21 Pray for our church friends with illnesses that they heal & be comforted	22<u>Earth Day</u> Praise & thank God that the beauty of His earth never fails	23 Pray that God sends His strength to those who struggle w/daily pain	24 Pray for all the volunteers who help & cheer up our homebound
25 Pray for guidance in your life as you may be the only Bible others will read	26 Pray for all educators who continue to teach their students amid this crisis	27 Ask God to help you trust Him in all things even those we do not understand	28 Pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide us each day as Jesus taught us	29 Ask God to help us make prayer the first step in our daily lives	30 Pray for the repose of those who are gone but remain in our hearts with love	

“Mary Magdalene went to the Disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ ”

“ . . . Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ”

John 20:18, 19b

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



CCCSA Contributions

We hope everyone is doing great during these times.

If you are still wanting to give your Sunday contributions you can mail them to us here at Central Christian Church or now contribute via online, through this link: <https://www.cccsa.org/give>

Please let us know if you have any questions.



*Happy
Birthday*

CCC APRIL BIRTHDAYS

<u>April 8</u>	David Carter Khampheng Chanthadara Evan Wren Dow
<u>April 11</u>	Randall Drake
<u>April 12</u>	Michelle Ester Helen Grimm
<u>April 15</u>	Diane Farmer
<u>April 17</u>	Linda Garcia
<u>April 19</u>	Margaret Holt Nicholas Villarreal
<u>April 20</u>	Alex Garcia
<u>April 21</u>	Fran Hiesser
<u>April 22</u>	Donald Levy
<u>April 24</u>	Luke Wade Dow
<u>April 26</u>	Elsie Arbogast
<u>April 27</u>	Tomas Villarreal
<u>April 28</u>	Joyce Bernal Chuck Farmer

CCC APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Good Friday Church Office Closed	3
4 Easter Sunday 10:50 am Worship	5 Easter Monday Church Office Closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:50 am Worship	12	13 9:00 am Benevolent Sewing 4:00 pm Executive Committee	14	15	16	17
18 10:50 am Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:50 am Worship	26	27	28	29	30	

Please note that due to the COVID-19 stay at home policy, all regular meetings scheduled for April will not occur, unless notified by email or telephone.

Welcome Rev. Pam Neuman

We would like to introduce Rev. Pam Neuman to our congregation. Pam is a member of CCC, having joined on October 1, 2020. She came to us by transfer from Western Hills CC. As Western Hills stopped working with the Regional Committee on Ministry, two of their sponsored “Commission-track” ministers were left without any oversight. Rev. Michael Passmore agreed to help these ministers with mentor work and spiritual and professional support.

Pam has been volunteering to telephone various of our church members and, when time and health permit, hopes to visit some. She does this without financial compensation but does report to Michael, who in turn reports on her behalf to the Committee on Ministry. As Pam has been fighting some serious health issues, she has not been in church very much. She was able to help us last November on Advent Decorating Day, which we appreciated.

We welcome Pam to CCC and support and encourage her in her ministry work and training.



Information about applying for a college scholarship through the Endowment Fund is available on the church website, and/or by emailing the church secretary for an application. Current recipients of the scholarship must reapply each year. Applications must be emailed to a_cecille@yahoo.com and/or turned into the church office by the deadline of May 31.

Thank you,

Cecille Martinez
Endowment Fund Trustee
Scholarship Chair

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@CCCSanAntonio



Our Minister:

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Our Staff:

Bob Blake: Staff Minister
George R. Gregory, Organist/Carillonneur
Dr. Douglas R. Boyer, Minister of Music
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