

Easter Sunday -- April 4

"...that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." That's an amazing claim: on a particular day, in a particular place, God raised a particular Jew from the dead. His body was transformed, reanimated; he got up and he walked out of his own tomb. The One who died for all was raised that all might live. This is the very center of the Christian faith. It is the single most important event of history, and apart from the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is no faith properly called Christian. This is the vindication of Jesus' claims, the fulfilment of prophecy, and the basis for our hope in life and in death.

"...that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." It's news too good to keep to ourselves. It is a day far too important to approach lightly.

Worship

on Good Friday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. Gather with your church family around the cross of Jesus. For about an hour we will focus on the love of God, who was so determined to renew and reclaim his creation that he "gave his only Son" for us. Easter may be a "fun" time without Good Friday worship, but the experience of Good Friday is what makes the Easter joy all it is supposed to be in our lives. Make plans now to be at JC3 for this important service.

Pray

for an hour or two as part of our Easter Prayer Vigil. The prayer vigil begins on Good Friday night at 8:30 p.m., shortly after our Good Friday worship, and ends at 8:30 p.m. Saturday April 3. Participating is very simple, and here's how it works:

sign up for a time slot of an hour (or more, if you like)

a sign up sheet will be in the foyer this Sunday

pray wherever you happen to be (we will not leave the building open all night)

use the prayer guide we provide (will be emailed out)

Celebrate

with the children of JC3 and the community in our Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 3 at 12:00 noon. This is a great chance to meet and get to know people from the community and from our own Preschool. No, Easter is not all about eggs and bunnies and butterflies -- but Easter is all about life and joy and celebration. We want children to learn the story of the faith and they are learning it every week in Live BIG! At the same time we want them to associate Easter with something large, joyous and exciting. An Easter egg hunt is a great way to celebrate the victory of God over sin and death.

Invest and Invite

is not another church program; it is a way of life. It is following Jesus and becoming the "fishers of men" he intended us to be when he called us. Simply put, Invest and Invite is this: we Invest in the lives of our unchurched friends and Invite them to worship at Johns Creek Christian. We then become partners in the process of sharing the good news. As you do what we cannot do (invite your friends), we will do what you are not yet trained or able to do (share the good news in a loving and compelling way). It is a simple

strategy for getting every man, woman and child of our church on the same page, and focused squarely on our mission.

pray for specific local unchurched friends and family

make a meaningful invitation to join you Easter Sunday at JCCC

give them an invite card

continue to pray for them

God wants us to reach people with the Easter message, and he has given Johns Creek Christian Church a role to play in that mission. Let's all "get in the game" this Holy week: worship, pray, celebrate, Invest and invite.

Pax Christi,

Randy