

keep the caterpillar in and then went on her way, virtually forgetting about her wonderful catch. The caterpillar spun a tight cocoon inside the box.

One day, when the girl was at school, her mother was cleaning her room. The mom opened the box to see what treasure the little girl had hidden. Out came a beautiful butterfly.

The mother closed the bedroom door tightly, so she could show this creation to the little girl when she came home. She could hardly wait. She met her daughter at the door and said, "Guess what! You've kind of become a mother!"

The child couldn't imagine what on earth her mother was talking about. But then the mother slowly opened her daughter's door and showed her the butterfly basking in the sunshine on the window sill.

Butterflies, although a beautiful illustration of new life emerging out of something seemingly dead, do not adequately portray the Resurrection. Jesus was not in some flimsy metal box. He was in a sealed tomb with guards standing nearby. He was wrapped in a cocoon of death, yet He broke free. The stone was rolled away from the tomb, not so Jesus could get out but so the world could look in. His resurrection assures yours. **Because He lives, you will live forever.**

NOTICES

PBC Quarterly Meeting

On the 8th of April (Sunday), after the service. There will be a shared lunch, so please bring food to enjoy and share.

STAY CONNECTED DURING THE WEEK!

The following home groups are on this week:

- Tuesday 10am at 90 Lindens Road. Study pp. lesson 6 (pp. 31ff) of *My First Steps* (contact Deo at 022 421 1405)
- Tuesday 7pm at Kelvin & Carol Tapp's home (contact 5735262 or 027 7735 263)
- Wednesday 6:30pm at 35 South Terrace (contact Clive or Lynn at 573 8858)
- Thursday 7pm at 12 Lincoln St (contact Deo at 022 421 1405). Study Acts 4:32-37.

ROSTERS*

Hosting

1 Apr Bill & Mary Pettigrew
8 Apr D & A Le Heux (Communion)
15 Apr Bill & Mary Pettigrew
22 Apr A Woolf & L Price (Communion)
29 Apr L Young & N Davis

Children's Church Teaching

1 Apr Guan Vistar
8 Apr Linda Price
15 Apr Carol Tapp
22 Apr Guan Vistar
29 Apr Family worship

Note: There will be no *Sunday Friends* session on the last Sunday of each month, as we would like to provide an opportunity for children to worship with their parents.

Music & Sound

1 Apr: Guan Vistar (leading), Judith Stretton (singer), Te Mara Riwaka (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

8 Apr: Allison Le Heux (leading), Johannes Hacker (guitar), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (projector), Andy Baldwin (sound)

15 Apr: Allison Le Heux (leading), Graham Galbraith, Judith Stretton (singer), Pare Raj (singer), Mihi Raj (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

22 Apr: Garry Stanley (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Georgine & Mihi Raj (singers), Pare Raj (projector), Andy Baldwin (sound)

29 Apr: Georgine Raj (leading), Ana Woolf (keyboard), Pare and Mihi Raj (singers), Lynette Stanley (projector), Andy Baldwin (sound)

*If the date doesn't suit please arrange a swap with others on the roster.

P I C T O N Baptist Church



(Photo credit: <https://www.google.co.nz/>)

"Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!"

Luke 24:5b-6a

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PASTORAL NOTES

Welcome to Picton Baptist Church! Thank you for coming. Today we join the millions of Christians throughout the world in remembering and celebrating the resurrection of Christ. As the main part of our worship today, we're screening the film *The Cross*, featuring evangelist Billy Graham and singers Lecrae Moore and Lacey Sturm. Whether you're a Christian or not, the message of this film has the power to bless your heart and change your life. God loves you. Christ died for you and rose again for you. Christ is who we need and if we come to Him He will receive us, forgive us, heal us, restore us, and bless us.

Giving your life to Christ is the greatest decision you can make. If you make that decision today, tell a Christian friend about it who may be able to help you take the next steps in your faith journey. Have a blessed resurrection day!

☪ If you have any questions or need help, please ask one of the welcomers who will be happy to help you.

☪ If you would like prayer after the service today, ask the people around you or come to the front and someone will pray for you.

☪ We invite you to stay for a cup of tea after the service.

THE VIA DOLOROSA

By Amy Peterson

During Holy Week, we remember the final days before Jesus' crucifixion. The road Jesus traveled to the cross through the streets of Jerusalem is known today as the *Via Dolorosa*, the way of sorrows.

But the writer of Hebrews viewed the path Jesus took as more than just a path of sorrows. The way of suffering that Jesus willingly walked to Golgotha made a "new and living way" into the presence of God for us (Hebrews 10:20).

JESUS, THANK YOU FOR WALKING THE WAY OF SORROW AND MAKING A WAY FOR US TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD.

For centuries the Jewish people had sought to come into God's presence through animal sacrifices and by seeking to keep the law. But the law was "only a shadow of the good things that are coming," for "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (vv. 1, 4).

Jesus's journey down the Via Dolorosa led to His death and resurrection. Because of His sacrifice, we can be made holy when we trust in Him for the forgiveness of our sins. Even though we aren't able to keep the law perfectly, we can draw near to God without fear, fully confident that we are welcomed and loved (vv. 10, 22).

Christ's way of sorrow opened for us a new and living way to God.

RESURRECTION HOPE

By Charles F Stanley

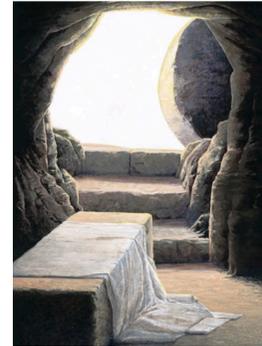
What is Easter about? Greeting cards speak of "renewal," "the promise of spring," or even "God's love." To believers, however, these sentiments fall far short of the power and victory of Easter—Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Does it really matter if Christ rose from the dead? Some would argue it doesn't. But I submit to you that if Jesus didn't conquer death, Christianity is a lie. Without the Resurrection, the most eloquent sermon is empty; sin still holds us captive; and our faith is nothing more than wishful thinking.

The Resurrection is a fact. Those who are not quite sure, and who do not trust the Bible story, can go to the library and investigate the records of the time written by Josephus, a Jewish historian.

And for those of us who do believe the Bible is an accurate account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have much to rejoice about.

For many years, our church, First Baptist Atlanta, produced a three-hour dramatic performance about the life of Jesus. Many of those years, the civic center has been sold out for all performances. It was the highlight



of the Easter season for thousands of people. I enjoyed it immensely. The basic script was "The Greatest Story Ever Told." Each year it ended with the ascension of Jesus.

Each year as I sat there and anticipated the Resurrection scene, I felt as if I would explode with excitement. I felt tense during the trial and the beating of Jesus. I got angry at the Roman soldiers (who are my church members!) as they yelled at and hit our Savior. I grew weary and sad during the Gethsemane and the Crucifixion scenes. I became exhausted after those scenes because they seemed so real to me.

Then, the music would change. The mood would change. Disciples and women would run across the stage looking for Jesus, wondering where His missing body could be. Women weep. Disciples shook their heads. Jesus' mother is pondered. I recall wanting to stand to my feet and shout, "He's risen, just as He said!" I never have said that, and I'm sure those around me were grateful. But I've wanted to.

The strangest feeling overtook me one year. As the disciples peered into the tomb and as angels hovered nearby and they cradled His folded grave-clothes in their hands, I wanted to get up and walk up on to the stage to look in the tomb, too. I knew it was empty, but I wanted to experience the thrill that those first disciples must have felt when they walked into the empty tomb.

We can't imagine their despair and then their feeling of utter amazement and victory.

His resurrection assures our resurrection. There would still be the sting of death if He had remained dead. But He was the firstfruits of resurrection.

Of course, we grieve when someone we love is taken in death. But we grieve differently from the way the world does. We do not grieve as those who have no hope. If He had remained dead, we would have nothing. No hope. No faith. No comfort. **But we have a living Savior, who transcended the laws of death and smashed them forever.**

A little girl took a caterpillar and put it in a metal box that once held Band-aids. She shut the lid tight to

