

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday!

April 17, 2022

Welcome, during these times of physical

isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home. This doesn't mean you have to do them alone. You can invite those who live with you, or connect with others through the phone or computer, or even in small groups outside.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca)

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559info@Kensingtonchurch.ca
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Ukraine:

This Presbyterian website contains a prayer and links to other information. presbyterian.ca/2022/03/04/praying-for-ukraine

If you would like to support relief efforts, you can connect with the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) presbyterian.ca/pwsd/2022/02/28/ukraine-crisis or the Red Cross www.redcross.ca

Announcements

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site

Re-opening: We are still welcoming people to worship in person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube and a printable PDF. If you have questions, please contact us.

Children: There is Sunday programming for children. Currently, we are also inviting children to join their parents in worship on Easter.

Easter Scavenger Hunt: April 17 after worship. Please invite people.

Visits: If you need a visit or prayer, please contact your elder or Rev. Peter.

Prayer Group: Thursdays 9 am at Benny Farm 3500 Benny Ave. Common Room beside central courtyard)

The Chosen: Join us for this Bible study to explore what Jesus was about, and what it's like to be a follower of Christ. We'll be basing this on Season 2 of *The Chosen*. While you can join anytime, the series is good and worthy of catching up on.

Thursdays April 21 - July 9

7 pm viewing of video over Zoom 8 pm discussion

Ask Rev Peter for the Zoom address.

Presbyterian College Convocation for Alex (and others):
May 5th, 7 p.m. at St Andrew & St Paul and live on YouTube
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Le3FanMfsv8

I note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Approaching God

★Introduction

Easter didn't just happen. It was part of a journey. This journey has had many ups and downs since creation. Times when people walked with God, and times when they turned away. God sent messangers and reminders... and eventually came as Jesus to show us The Way.

Jesus helped people back into a better relationship with each other and God - but this challenged some people's ideas of what was right. It also challenged other people's power and privilege. These groups worked together and arranged for Jesus to be betrayed by his friends, made fun of, beat up, and then killed so that all the world would know Jesus was done.

...but God's never done. No matter what darkness we find ourselves in, Jesus is the light of the world.

Lighting of the Christ Candle
Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

☐ Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today......pg 12 (243)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkWaoJZGvsA

♣ Prayer of approach.....Alex

Gracious God, you are the life-giving creator of the universe, maker of all things visible and invisible. From the very beginning, your will shaped creation and you so lovingly opened yourself to us through your son Jesus Christ. Out of the darkness came your light. Christ gave himself freely for us, and so we offer you our humble praise. We seek your Holy Spirit in our lives, ever working to inspire us to live out the life you call for us.

Loving God, you gave your one and only Son so that we may be saved from the grip of sin and death. But we confess that we shy away from the salvation that you offer us. We feel stuck in the

fear and worry of our lives, distracted by what's before us, resisting the hope that new life through you brings us. We cling to the resentment and disappointment we face in our lives, refusing the freedom that is granted through forgiveness. We ask for your hand to work in our bodies, minds, and spirits. Forgive us, O God, and



bring us to the joy and wholeness of your great mercy.

As we approach and confess ourselves to you, let us join together in the prayer that your Son Jesus Christ so faithfully taught us, saying:

² from the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon.....Alex

Christ has died on the cross.

Christ has conquered death.

Christ is risen.

We are his forgiven people. Be at peace with God and with one another, through the unending mercy of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Listening to God

Children's story What do you think of this picture?



Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church It looks like a dry leave. All you might expect is it to blow away in the wind, or crumble to dust ...but that not what happens. This is a cocoon for a Tiger Swallowtail butterfly. What would you expect them to look like? Brown?

Would you be surprised if they looked like this?



I also find it surprising that a butterfly starts as a caterpillar, and that it looks nothing like the butterfly it will become. Here's the Tiger Swallowtail as a caterpillar.



That's all very surprising... unless you're familiar with butterflies, then maybe not anymore.

For the Jesus' friends, they expected that after he had died and been put in the tomb he'd be like the brown dead looking leaf... except that they had a surprise. He was alive and was still going to help them... always.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for doing the unexpected and surprising the disciples. Help us to see your surprises with joy, and to know that you will always be with us as well.

Amen.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9Eqm8uluck

Prayer for Illumination

God of life,

your Spirit raised Jesus from dead.

Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture.

Your Spirit draws us to Christ

and drew us to this moment.

We ask that you will send your Spirit now to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope through the Easter gospel.

Amen.³



- The lectionary has suggested the same psalm two weeks in a row. Is this appropriate? What do you think of the verse they end it on?
- As we touched on last week, all the gospel writers include today's story. What is included, or not, in this version?
- In the last reading Paul us warning the church in Corinth that a little bad can change everything... but so can a little good. He starts by talking about a person, but then...

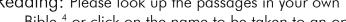
Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

Bible, or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

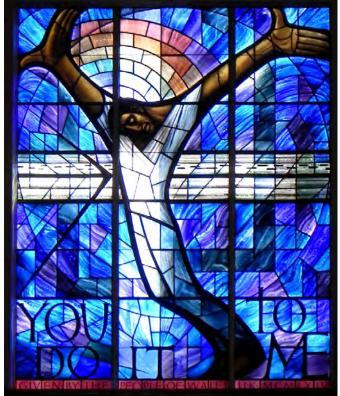
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Luke 24: 1-12

1 Corinthians 5: 6b - 8



or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV



Christ Crucified - J Petts

Sermon: Easter? What this mean?

Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts. Amen.

This is Easter!

It's the biggest Christian celebration of the year.

Regular society notices it, perhaps not as much as Christmas, but it's still a holiday celebration. Everyone in Montreal knows about Easter Eggs and the bunny - but what if they were curious about what Easter is really about?

What if they asked you? What would you say?

adapted from Worship Sourcebook N.3.1.1

If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963

Perhaps you'd start with the traditional Easter greeting? Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed!

It's a classic, but needs some explanation. For most people when they hear that somebody 'has risen' they think they got out of bed. Here we're talking about more, even more than a death bed. We're talking dead and buried... but not risen as a zombie.

Still, answering that Jesus died but came back is a good way to start. It covers the central event of the story... but what's it mean?

This week I asked the Session, the Prayer Group, and others what Easter means to them, and they shared many different, and good, answers. Related to Jesus returning from the dead was the topic of mortality. As I mentioned on Good Friday⁵, one person shared that this was their first encounter with mortality. The story of the cross is traumatic in many ways. One aspect of the Easter story is that death is not the end of life. Jesus showed us that there is life after death.



women at the tomb - Bryans

This is a little confusing, or as I talked about with the children, surprising. Many would say unbelievable. It's probably part of the reason why the women weren't believed when they shared the

news with the disciples (the other part being sexism). In many ways, including rising from the dead, this story turns what people know about how the world works upside-down.

Which shouldn't be surprising or unbelievable - though it did provide one of the more surprising answers. Most people focus on the Easter event, or add in the events just before. One of your answers was that, "Jesus came to teach us his way, and Easter fulfills it." This is true in many ways, including the reason it shouldn't be surprising. For those who remember Jesus' teachings and healings, turning the world upside-down happened a lot. Luke even has Mary sing about this while Jesus is still growing in her womb. That said, it's still hard - even for those who studied directly from Jesus. The women bring back the news and our translation says, "But these words seemed to them an idle tale." A more accurate translation would be that it seemed like garbage or B.S. Still, one of the twelve went to check it out... which means that in talking to their friends and fellow students (people who are already on side) the women had an 8% success rate. That's a bit depressing, but it's better than not telling anyone, in which case they'd have 0% growth. Like Paul said to the Church in Corinth, a little (even one person) can change the whole. Still, confusion, disbelief and 'upside-downness' are part of what Easter is about.

Another aspect of this is that death doesn't separate us from the love of God. Jesus can walk this earth, and with the dead, and back again. Death is not a barrier for God, it's just a door we can't see through... and for us it's one way. Also surprising; also good news; also what Easter is about.

⁵ video: www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_w or print: kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities/

Another response I heard this week was that Jesus died for our sins, or because of our sins. (There's lots of books trying to sort out if it's 'for' or 'because of'.) The Bible, and the stories leading up to Easter are full of sin - people doing things or not doing things that damage relationships with God, each other, creation... even themselves. I'm sure you can find parallels in your life because we all sin, ...but these stories also tell us that is not the end. Like death, there is life beyond sin. It comes through God's forgiveness. The cross and resurrection show us how serious God is about this. As one person said, having forgiveness provides a way to move forward. It is a wonderful gift. Sin and forgiveness are another aspect of what Easter is about.

Some people started describing Easter as a time of great joy. This is something the angel told the shepherds earlier in Luke, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." - and it's true about Easter as well. One person commented they were glad to be living in this part of the world where we have Easter in the Spring. It helps to see creation coming alive again to remind us everything I've already said - and that it is all a blessing to those who remember.



Sharon Helleman

Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church Which brings us back to where this little sermon started. What would you say if a friend or family member asked you what Easter is? How would you remember it to them? How would you be a witness to the good news?

I bring this up because, as Christians, it's good to have an answer. As you're thinking of what your answer is, I've a few reminders.

The other day I was talking to my neighbour about a project he might do to collect the stories of homeless people. He mentioned the importance of being sincere in your interest or it won't go anywhere. The same is true with how you answer your friend or family about this question. You must give an answer that you are comfortable with. It must be sincere. (You've got a good start, because if you didn't already have sincerity in your relationship they would never have asked you.)

I'd also like you to remember there are many aspects to Easter. I shared many different answers, such as that God cares about everyone, is always present, that there's hope, ...and it's okay to be surprised or confused. In all of this, there is God.

To God be all the glory Amen.



Responding to God

J Hy	ymn: Halleluyahp	og 1	4
	www.voutube.com/watch?v=sQKwH3ZEumM		

FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).Today they are provide by Alex.

Values: What does Easter mean to you personally?

Memories: Where do you see the resurrected Christ in your life or

the lives of others?

Values: If a friend, colleague, neighbour, or family member asked you what Easter was about, what would you say to

them? (Imagining a specific person may change how

you answer.)

Actions: How do you stay focused on the Resurrection throughout the whole year?



Road to Emmaus -Michael Torevell

Spirit Sightings
New Members:

Today two people are becoming members of Kensington. Both Karin and Alfonso started coming in late 2019.

Karin was born in Pierrefonds, but grew up in Dorval. She has always been a Christian, usually going to a United church. One of things helped her feel at home at Kensington was reconnecting with Elizabeth. She'd known Elizabeth as one of the librarians at the Children's Library who was so wonderful with her boys. Karin likes to read, knit and go for walks. At Kensington she has become a part of the prayer group and the choir.

Alfonso grew up in Cuba were he became a doctor. He grew up as an atheist. While on a research trip to Montreal he decided to stay. While this opened up possibilities, it also cost him his credentials and ability to go home for many years. He currently works in the sleep clique at the Hospital. In 2019 Alfonso was visiting his family when a series of surprising things happened. He became reacquainted with his childhood sweetheart. Another surprise is that she had become a Christian. She did not push Christianity on Alfonso, but he was curious about this thing that was important to her. Through her example of what it was like to know Christ, Alfonso became a Christian as well. While he'd found a church on the south shore, he felt drawn to Kensington. Here he's become involved in welcoming people as an usher, and was on the Student Committee to advise Alex.

There are two things that people must agree to to become members of Kensington Presbyterian Church. While we've already talked about this, I'm going to ask them again before you.

Do you believe in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit - Holy and One? (I do)

Do you want journey with God and be a part of Kensington? (I do)

Dear Lord.

Thank you for bringing Karin and Alfonso to join our community. May and help them, and they help us, as we journey together with you.

Amen.

If you keep coming, I'll have some Bibles to give you soon. In the mean time, here is a welcome card. Thank you for joining your journey with ours.

We'd like to invite you to welcome them after worship... but remember the COVID guidelines.



Soaring Spirit - James Fissel

Our second (third?) Spirit sighting comes from Alex. Here's what he has written...

When I first entered seminary, I felt the call to ministry that God was giving me, but I had some natural reservations about being a seminarian. I entered into an intense few years of study where I was challenged by a number of different experiences. The

biggest change occurred after I finished at McGill. Theology was no longer something I could study at a distance. I liked to treat theology as an academic subject to study rather than something that is deeply personal. It was once I began the final year at Presbyterian College where my whole outlook on faith had changed.

During my time at Kensington, I have had the honour of serving you, the congregation, through contributions to worship and the Sunday School program. Paired with my classwork at the college, I felt a transformation quickly taking hold as the months went by. I was forced to confront my most intimate self in the face of faith. My personal reflections and working at Kensington allowed the shroud of distance to be removed, leaving me with an ultimatum, to risk being vulnerable with my faith or to walk away.

Over the months that I served at Kensington as a Student Minister, I have come closer to my faith, making it personal and intimate in a way I had never done before. The calling that I received 5 years ago is stronger than ever, and it is thanks to the inspiring hand of God leading me here to Kensington and Presbyterian College.

It's always important to remember that faith is not something that can simply be studied or observed. It is personal and intimate, full of vulnerability and openness. But when that vulnerability is placed in the trusted care of Jesus Christ, his promise of love and mercy watches over us and makes our faith part of our reality. As I graduate from Presbyterian College, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the people of Kensington for bringing me the opportunities to encounter the work of the Holy Spirit, which took place in not only my life, but I hope in your lives as well. I pray that God will continue to watch over Kensington, blessing each and every one of you with love and mercy.

Dear Lord,

We are excited for Alex as he starts a new leg of his journey with you. Thank you for inviting us to share this section. While it's redundant, we ask for your Spirit to continue to open him to your way, and to provide him with companions to share the journey.

In Jesus name, Amen.

╆ Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**. Just click the '**Donate Now**' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can now donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

Prayers of the people

O God, you are beyond our imagining and right here with us.

We come before you today, Easter day, in gratitude.

Thank you for surprises;

While it's hard sometimes, thank you for the way you take expectations, turn them upside down and then use that to make the world a better place.

Thank you that nothing is the end for you. Just as death didn't stop you then, thank you that your Holy Spirit continues to bring your love, hope and healing into the world.

Thank you for the way you did it.
For the heavy darkness of Good Friday,

because there are people who are living in darkness.

We pray for those who are refugees or victims of conflict, and for the families of the missing aboriginal women.

This morning we especially pray for all those in the Ukraine, Haiti and other places of conflict.

We pray for all those who suffer from trauma, abuse or bullying. who have difficulty finding joy and hope in their upset lives.

. . .

May they know that you are with them in the dark and that there is life after.



resurection - Granlund

Living God, your life and resurrection show us that you can bring healing in this life, and that when it is done, you are there with us in the next.

Jesus, we pray for those struggling

with not being able to do what they used to;

for those whose bodies are letting them down;

for those who have difficulty remembering what that was. and for those suffering from mental illness;

and we pray for those whose with loved ones who have died in this world. . . .

May they know that through you there is healing and life better than we can imagine.

Like the women,
help us to look for you,
and to share the news of what we find.
Use us to build your church,
here as Kensington.
and be a light to those in need.

We thank you for all the ways Easter speaks to us. For your light that comes in the dark; for your going anywhere to bring life; for your love that brings Great Joy.

In the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

☐ Hymn: Now let the vault of heaven resound.....pg 13 (255)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=prm7HHU2UIU

| Watch |

Sending and Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)
As you go from this time,
remember Jesus.

Remember that God is always present with us, that God cares for us - loves us - so much and that there is hope.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.



Sunday, April 17

MISSION MOMENT

In Afghanistan, an excited Salma had just passed Grade 4, but Salma's father didn't want her to continue her education because the school was too far away. When a meeting with the school didn't change his mind, community and religious leaders involved with a girls' education project visited Salma's parents. They explained the importance

of education for girls from both



human rights and religious perspectives. After a few hours of discussion, Salma received permission to return to school. Unfortunately, the current political situation in Afghanistan means many children are faced with uncertainty about their futures, particularly girls. This education project is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 17 (Easter Sunday) We pray that we will be filled with the joy of Easter and a desire to live in new ways that reflect the gospel.

Monday, April 18 We give thanks for programs the church supports through Presbyterian World Service & Development that empower girls to rise above disadvantage and discrimination to pursue their goals.

Tuesday, April 19 We pray for presbytery and synod clerks as they provide churches with wise and compassionate advice.

Wednesday, April 20 We pray for the members and work of the Assembly Council.

Thursday, April 21 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew.

Friday, April 22 (Earth Day) We pray for the well-being of the Earth's ecosystems and for those displaced and harmed by the climate crisis.

Saturday, April 23 We pray for the members and work of the Gender, Sexuality and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Christ is risen!

Every day that we respond to the poor, the hungry and the displaced, we discover God's resurrecting power. The poor are raised up, the vulnerable are cared for and the sick are healed. Inspired by God's promise of abundant life and rooted in the living hope of Jesus Christ, our church responds to the call to serve those in need with compassion, justice and love. Through PWS&D, we are working in some of the most vulnerable communities in our global village to restore human dignity, ease the pain of want and promote community cooperation that benefits all.

Thanks to your support and faith in action, we are creating positive change. In a world filled with need, we are responding with medical care, sanitation services and emergency relief. We are responding with educational opportunities, sustainable agriculture practices and skills training. Together, we are promoting human rights and supporting refugees. Faithful to our calling, we respond together.

This Easter, please support PWS&D.

WeRespond.ca





The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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April 17, 2022











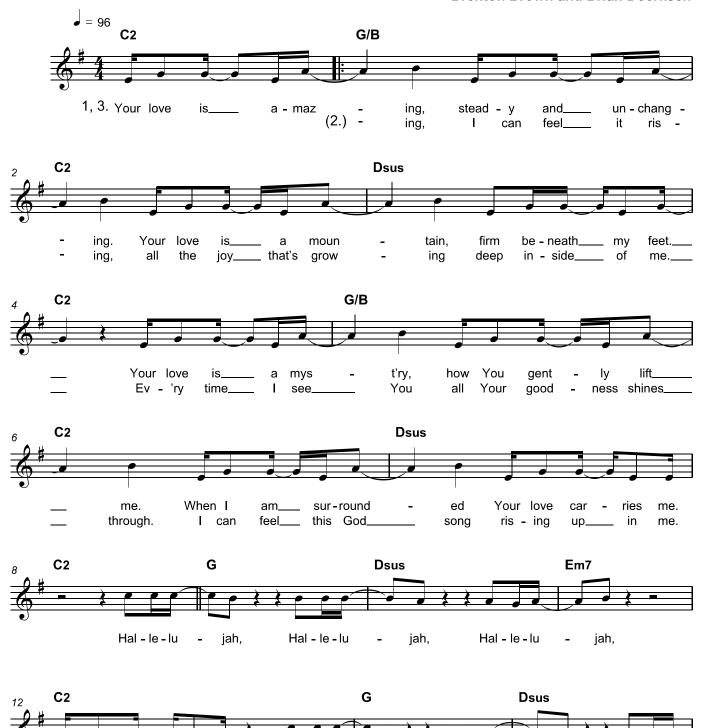




Words: Paul Zeller Strodach (1876-1947) Music: Auserlesene Katholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne 1623; harmony, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright @ Oxford University Press

Hallelujah

Words and Music by Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen



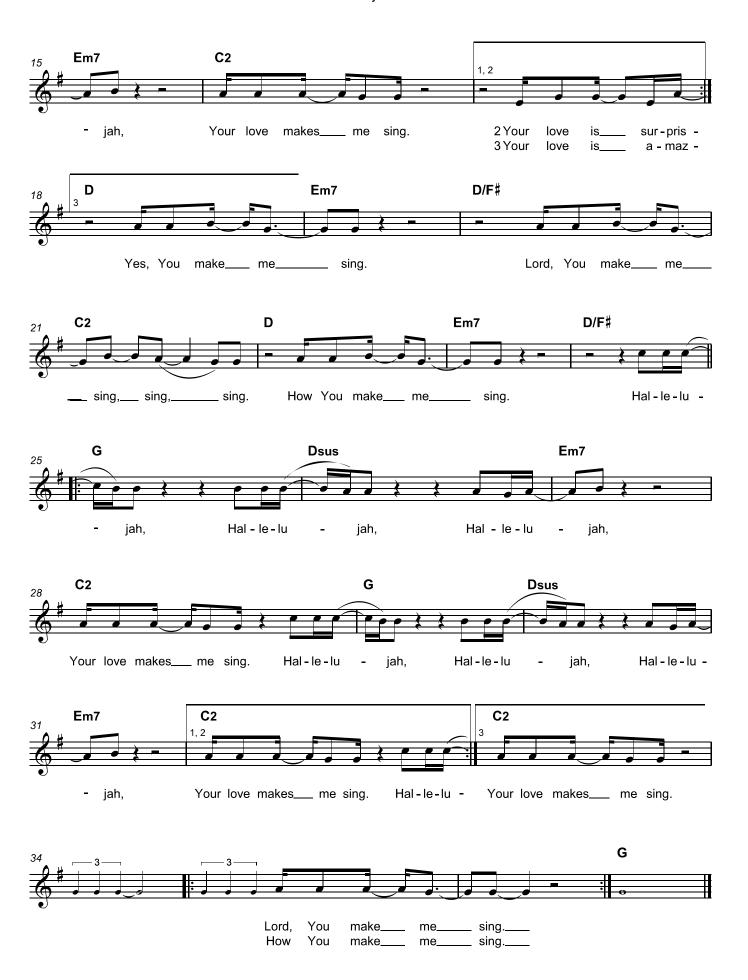
Hal - le - lu - jah,

Hal - le - lu

jah,

Hal-le-lu -

Your love makes___ me sing.



RESURRECTION Scavenger HUNT

	Something White - Represents the Purity of God
	Something Black - Represents Sin
	Bread - Jesus Broke this & Shared it with His Disciples
	Coins - Judas Betrayed Jesus in Exchange for Money
	Thorns - Represents Crown of Thorns on Jesus' head
	Perfume - Poured out on Jesus' Feet
	Two Pieces of Wood / Sticks - Represents the Cross
•	Nails - What Secured Jesus to the Cross
	Something Sour - What Jesus was Given to Drink
	Something Red - Represents Jesus' Blood
	Something Torn - The Veil in the Temple Split in Two
	Spices - Used to Prepare Jesus' Body for Burial
	A Rock - Represents the Tomb
	3 of Something - Represents the # of Days in the Tomb
	Something Empty - He Has Risen!
	White Cloth - All that Remained in the Tomb
	Something New - The Old Things have Passed Away!

For there is one God, and between God and men, the man Christ Timothy 2:5