

Mendon Church
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The Gleam

Mendon Church

April 2018

The Personal Approach of Christ A Note from Pastor Hwang

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Weekly worship
and Christian
Education
Sundays @10 am

Easter falls on April Fools' Day in 2018 - a very rare occasion that last took place in 1956. People are already making jokes and planning pranks for the day, like filling chocolate bunnies with mustard or even wasabi to give to their intended targets. If Jesus knew that his resurrection would be interrupted by jokes and pranks two millennia later, Jesus would have reiterated Matthew 5:22(b) or 5:37 to his disciples again after his resurrection: "Anyone who says, "You fool!" will be in danger of the fire of hell (Mat.5:22b)", "Simply let your 'yes' be 'yes', and you 'no' be 'no.' Anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

Interestingly enough, there were a few harmless "pranks" played by Jesus himself to make his points in John 20 and 21 after his resurrection. First, when Mary Magdalene found the tomb of Jesus empty, she ran to Peter and the "beloved" disciple (presumably one of two sons of Zebedee). The two disciples ran and checked the empty tomb but just left the scene confused and stunned. Mary stood outside the tomb crying but soon found two angels inside the tomb. While still standing outside the tomb, two angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" Then, she heard the same question coming from her behind, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" It was Jesus seemingly playing a "prank" on her.

Second, in the same chapter, Jesus appeared in front of the disciples. They gathered together in a house in fear of the Jews. They locked all the doors and literally kept one another standing in the middle of the house. All of a sudden, Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" You can simply read his words as a greeting, but the disciples would have heard him saying it almost like "Peek-A-Boo" or "Surprise!"

Third, Jesus appeared to Thomas later, as he was not in the house when Jesus spoke with the other disciples. Doubting Thomas refused to believe it when the other disciples

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EASTER
SERVICES

Good Friday
7:30pm

Easter Sunday
10am

Important Events

Pastoral Installation Service April 22nd, 10am

Please join us as Pastor HoDong Hwang is officially installed as our Designated Pastor.

Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Lunch April 29th, following service

We strongly encourage all members to attend.

The Personal Approach of Christ (continued from page 1)

claimed they saw the risen Jesus and he vowed that his belief would be reserved until he touched Jesus' wounds. Although many English bibles translated the word Thomas used here – the Greek word “ballo” – as ‘touch’ or “put into”, it actually connotes a more aggressive action like “thrust” or “throw.” Eight days later, Jesus reappeared among the disciples, turned to Thomas, and repeated his own verbiage back to him: “Thrust (ballo) your finger into my side.” Copying Thomas' language in front of him seems like a kind of affectionate teasing Jesus used.

Lastly, Jesus went all the way to the Sea of Galilee to see the disciples who returned to their former life even after they learned about the resurrection of Jesus. It is not clear if all the disciples listed in John 21:2 had seen Jesus on the day of resurrection. (In John 20:10 it appears Peter and one of the two sons of Zebedee returned home and did not meet with Jesus after his resurrection.) It is more probable that among them, Doubting Thomas was the only one who had met Jesus. Jesus sneaks up to them in the early morning to see them failing in their overnight fishing expedition and said to them from a distance, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” Jesus may have changed his voice like to sounds like a fishing expert so that the disciples would believe him. His “one point advice” is kind of funny if we imagine a small floating fishing boat on the largest lake in Israel. If they did catch a great number of fish, it shouldn't be because they threw the net on one side of the boat versus the other - the 153 fish should fill the wide area underneath the boat and not a single side. To me, it is almost like a taxi driver saying, “If you want to go to Rochester, you have to catch a cab the other side of the street.”

From the “pranks” of Jesus, we find him approaching each disciple differently according to how they'll be most receptive. Jesus appeared in different ways to Mary, to the disciples in the house, to Thomas, and to Peter and other disciples. Like the disciples, we may all have different experiences with the risen Christ and we are the proof of his flexibility and adaptability to our feeble faith. In other words, we are not just a fluke of the universe. Each and every human being is the object of his love and his “affectionate pranks”, to whom he makes his sacrifice of the cross and the glory and hope of the resurrection known.

Birthdays

Gregg Miller	4/4
Robert Clark	4/11
David Hodownes	4/12
Verne Horton	4/19
Dianne Floeser	4/20
Ethan Kellogg	4/20
Andrew Martin	4/21
Trevor Kellogg	4/25
Earl Bendschneider	4/27
Amber Avery	4/29
Asiimwe Kamara	4/30
Judi Baronsky	4/30
Alexandra Main	4/30

Anniversaries

Robert and Susan Clark	4/21
Pete and Karen Stotz	4/29



Prayer Requests

Kate Batz, who has the flu for the second time

Kathy Bloom's coworker's granddaughter, Kayliann, who is being severely bullied.

Kate Morrell (a friend of the Kelloggs), as she continues recovery from a stroke.

Dorothy Stubbings, as she is going through some medical issues

Doris Naundorf's friend Walter

Shirley Snyder's sister-in-law

Tara Nickel's friend, Chris

Cindy Westfall's mother & sister

Christians facing persecution

Our Nation's service men and women and their families

People of Watsa, Congo, especially the orphans

Refugees, and those suffering in 3rd World countries

The President, Congress, our Nation and our World

Those who are homebound: *Susan and Allen Beauregard, Norma Glamack, Joyce Holdsworth, Doris Naundorf, Betty Porter, Shirley Snyder, Lynne Templeton, and Ann Wood*

Our Missionaries: *John and Beaj Reed with SIM; The Shalhoub's with the Navigators; The Robinsons in Haiti; The McKees with SIL/Wycliffe*

Our College Students: *Jonathan Alcorn, Jessica Apthorpe, Alex Baronsky, Katie Kerekes, Meredith Rogers, and Kyle Schultze.*

Those in the Military: *Garrett Koek - Captain US Army, currently stationed/Camp Humphreys, South Korea*