

# GIVING

03.29.26

General Offering	\$8,996.74
Building Fund	\$563.05
Uganda	\$165.00
Benevolence	\$40.00
Total	\$9,764.79
Attendance	234

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“The resurrection of Christ is the strong assurance that death is swallowed up in victory.”

- John Knox

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## VISITORS + MEMBERS

For ALL church announcements, our church calendar, ministries for serving and small groups to join, please see our Church Center app.



Welcome to  
Grace Harvest  
Bible Church

04.05.26

### SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES

9:00am

Elders- 1 Samuel  
Sanctuary A

Bereans- Luke  
Upstairs C

Young Adults- 1 Corinthians  
Downstairs B, Gray Room

Surge (5th & 6th)  
Upstairs C

Youth (7th - 12th)  
Basement A

Children's SS  
(Birth-4th)  
Downstairs C

### SUNDAY SERVICES

10:30am

Worship Service

Children's Church  
(Birth-4<sup>th</sup>)

### WEEKDAY EVENTS

Trail Life  
Mondays 6:30pm

Men's Book Study  
Mondays 7pm/Fridays 6am

Women's Book Study  
Mondays 7:00pm

Worship Team Practice  
Tuesdays 7:00pm

Awana  
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Surge (5th & 6th)  
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Youth (7th - 12th)  
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Men's Alliance  
Wednesdays 7:00pm

Family Groups  
Every other Thursday  
9:00am, 6:30pm, & 7:00pm

# Pastor's Pen

Hope That Will Not Die

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**  
1 Peter 1:3

Today, we come together as believers to celebrate the greatest day in all of human history—the day Jesus rose from the dead. We who are born again possess a hope that those without Christ can never understand. The world places its hope in the things of this world. They hope it in health—until sickness comes. They place hope in people—until they fail them. They place it in plans—until life changes them overnight. But Easter declares something radically different: there is a hope that cannot die.

Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes reflect a life devoid of hope in resurrection: "Vanity of vanities... all is vanity." After experiencing wisdom, wealth, pleasure, and success, he realized that without God, all is like vapor—here one moment, gone the next. If this life were all there was, Solomon would be correct; work would seem endless, success fleeting, loss permanent, and death final. Life under the sun would be truly empty. Yet, Scripture does not end with Ecclesiastes, and God did not leave us trapped in vanity. He offers salvation through the resurrection of His Son.

The gospel points us to the empty tomb. Paul tells us that if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are to be pitied, but then he declares the turning point of history: Christ has been raised from the dead (1 Cor. 15:12-22). Because Jesus lives, everything changes. Life is no longer meaningless, suffering is no longer wasted, and death is no longer final. What Solomon saw as vapor, Christ turned into victory. The resurrection transforms emptiness into eternal purpose. It tells us that our faith is not in vain, our labor in the Lord is not in vain, and even our tears are not in vain, because they are held by a God who brings life out of death.

Without Christ, life truly feels like a mist that slips through our fingers. With the risen Christ, life becomes filled with eternal meaning and unshakable hope. Solomon teaches us what happens when we search for purpose without God, but Jesus shows us what happens when we live in the light of the empty tomb. Because He lives, our lives are not vanity—they are part of God's everlasting story of redemption and resurrection.

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

From Sadness to Gladness- Alistair Begg

**He showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.** John 20:20

The first Easter did not look like a typical Easter celebration. Before Jesus' resurrection was discovered, the day was marked by tears, devastation, and bewilderment—not joy, hope, and praise. The disciples were gathered out of fear, to protect one another, not to sing "Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!" They sat in sadness; their story had come to a grinding halt, with the next page blank. Or so they thought.

The Bible does not attempt to deny or idealize the grief felt by Christ's followers after His crucifixion. They didn't understand what had happened, and they certainly didn't know what would happen next. Their sadness reveals humanity's limitations in knowing the bigger picture. Despite the Old Testament prophecies and Jesus' own foretelling of His death (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34), John's Gospel tells us that they "**as yet did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead**" (John 20:9). They didn't understand that when Jesus said from the cross, "**It is finished**" (19:30), He was not expressing defeat but declaring victory.

This victory meant resurrection, and as the resurrected Savior came to the disciples in their darkness, fear, and sadness, He brought transformation. Their unbelief turned to belief and their sadness to gladness. That gladness was rooted in the fact that they understood that Jesus had risen from the dead. Their faith and their future returned and were rooted in this wonderful reality. The darkness of their despair made the light of the resurrection all the more glorious.

If you are looking for a god that will just make you glad, you shouldn't look for the God of the Bible. He does make us glad—more so than anyone or anything else—but He often starts by making us sad. We are saddened by this broken world, saddened by our own sin, saddened that on the cross Jesus died for our wickedness, disobedience, and disinterest. It is only through truly feeling such sorrow that we can fully understand the gladness that comes with our account being settled, our debt being paid, and our wrongs being forgiven.

We can know the gladness of a love that loves us even though we are not worthy of it—that loves us when we don't want to listen. What kind of love is this? It is the love of God for men and women, for you and me! Today, look away from yourself and look at Him. This is love, and when we know we are loved in this way, we are able to see the healing in the harm and that sadness can be the soil in which eternal gladness grows. About which part of your life—perhaps a part full of pain, or regret, or anxiety—do you need to hear this today? Remember that whatever you are walking through, it remains true that Christ the Lord is risen. Hallelujah!