

Show Up. Leave *Different.*

2024 Easter Holiday Guide

CURRENT A CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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TRUTH
JOY
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PRAYER
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You'll find it all here!

ALMIGHTY GOD OF LOVE
BE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE

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ALMIGHTY
BE WELCOME

Show Up.
»» Leave *Different.*

The Other Side *of the* Coin ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

A Note from Pastor Darren

How Current plans to turn Judas' betrayal into one more way to worship.

"Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over." Matthew 26:14-16

Even people who are unaware of the details of Jesus' death and resurrection associate the name "Judas" with betrayal. Rightly so. Judas, one of the Lord's closest followers, betrayed his master to the authorities for 30 pieces of silver.

Picture Judas counting out the 30 pieces of silver as a smile crept across his face. Imagine Judas' delight at the sound of his payoff



jingling in the cloth pouch. Imagine how heavy the bag of blood money must have felt as he bobbed his hand up and down, as if weighing it out. Now imagine the heavy weight Judas must have felt when he realized the damage he had done. Was it worth it, Judas? Matthew, chapter 27, explains Judas was filled with regret for what he had done. He tried returning the 30 pieces of silver to the religious leaders who had paid him. They didn't want the money back... they had what they wanted. They certainly weren't interested in Judas' sorrow or regret. In desperation, Judas threw the money back into the temple and hung himself.

The silver coins paid to Judas in

exchange for Jesus would have most likely been the coins used for the temple tax (Tyrian Shekels). The modern value would be between \$350 - \$450 in silver. Was it worth it, Judas?

Easter was pretty special in the cozy country church where I grew up. Each year a large display depicting the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ would be set up in the front yard of the church. There would be egg hunts and sunrise services to enjoy. Easter lilies would decorate the auditorium, and each year the church would have a special "30 Pieces Of Silver Offering."

"Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went



to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over."

Matthew 26:14-16

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Several weeks before Easter, everyone from the oldest to the youngest would be given a plastic bag and a twist-tie. On Easter weekend we would bring back an offering in the bag. I remember saving up 30 quarters for my offering. Adults would often fill their bag with cash or a check as they wanted to give more than \$7.50.

The offering we all participated in was profound. It served to redeem an act of betrayal and turn it into an act of worship. Instead of receiving a payoff in exchange for Jesus, we were giving an offering out of love to worship and adore Him. It was "the

other side of the coin", if you will. This simple offering every Easter made a big impact on me. It was a reminder of Judas' selfishness and an opportunity for me to be selfless.

It was a way to take what the enemy had meant for evil and turn it into something good.

It was a way to remind the 11-year old me that this time of year was about more than great candy, bright colors, and Easter Sunday dinner around my grandmother's table.

It was a sacred time.

Our hearts were focused on a rugged cross and an empty tomb.

We remembered.
We worshiped.
We gave.

We emptied the jar; we filled up our little '30 pieces of silver' bags; and we surrendered another piece of ourselves to Jesus.



Any Day *is a* Good Day

BUT WHAT ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

At first glance, it might seem odd that the day we remember the crucifixion of Jesus is called “GOOD” Friday.

What was so good about it? Jesus was brutally abused, though He was perfect and innocent. He was beaten without mercy, though He was mercy personified. Though He loved, He was mocked. Though He healed and taught and worked miracles, He was nailed to a cross.

Despite the grim realities of that dark day when Jesus was crucified, the Christian understands God had a purpose which ran far deeper than the nail scars in Jesus’ hands and feet. This was the price of our redemption. This was the precious gift that set us free. This was God demonstrating His love and grace through Jesus.

We hope you’ll join the church family for a meaningful Good Friday service, which will include a time of worship and teaching from God’s Word, on March 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Just as Good Friday may not seem so good at first glance, it may also not seem like a good day to make following Jesus official, responding to what God has done for us... but it is. Once a person believes Jesus is the Son of God, and is willing to turn their life around and live it for God through repentance, and confess that Jesus is their Lord and Savior, and be baptized into Jesus... then any day is a good day to respond to the cross of Christ...and Good Friday is a great day to do just that!

I often get asked by those thinking about baptism, when their baptism can be scheduled. **Any day is a good day.**

At Current, we love for the church family to see others being baptized into Christ. It's an encouragement to everyone who witnesses that eternity-changing event! This can be done during or after a worship service any Sunday, or even during the week. Baptisms can be scheduled or spontaneous. Whether you've been thinking for years about taking this step, or you're just now considering it as you read these words, you are invited to give your life to Jesus Christ,

Scan the code to register to get baptized Easter weekend.



acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior, and be baptized into Him during our special Good Friday service.

Can you be baptized another day? Absolutely! Can you be baptized during our Saturday or Sunday services on Easter weekend? For sure... Yes! But consider Good Friday. When we become a Christian, the "old us" (our sins, our old way of life), spiritually speaking, dies and we are given a new spiritual life in Christ.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
Galatians 2:20

Romans 6:3-4 explains that through baptism we are united with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Why not crucify your old life of sin on the day we remember, with gratitude, the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior? Why not be lifted up out of the water, with the promise of new life in Christ, on the day we celebrate His life-giving sacrifice?

If you are considering being baptized and would like to talk or schedule your baptism for the Good Friday service or another service time, please start the conversation by scanning the code.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10th ANNUAL WHM PALOOZA CAR SHOW

Join us for a car show you won't want to miss. All makes and models welcome. Bring your family and join us for Complimentary Coffee and Donuts!

Hosted by West Houston Muscle Car Club



CURRENT CUPBOARD

CurrentCupboard, our food pantry ministry, will be distributing food to households in need around our community. Join us in prayer as a community and sign up to serve with us - www.currentchristian.org/missions.



COFFEE TALK

currentwomen

Drop in and fellowship with us at Panera in Katy (near Katy Mills) on March 9th. Grab some coffee or just hang out. We'll be there from 8am-10am.

THE HUNT

currentstudents



JH & HS students are invited to join us for this SUPER FUN night! We will hunt for prizes on Current's front lawn, eat dinner, enjoy a movie night, and a sleepover in the main building! Girls in The Sub and guys in The Cove. Learn more at www.currentchristian.org/students.





Experience 

EASTER

AT CURRENT

MARCH 29-31, 2024

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

SATURDAY - 3:30P

SUNDAY - 8:30A | 10A | 11:30A

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

FRIDAY | 7:00P

EASTER EXPERIENCE

FRIDAY | 4:30P-6:30P

SATURDAY | 9A-12P | 4:30P-6:30P

Immersed *in the* Gospel

*A look into the Easter Experience:
The immersive journey of Jesus'
sacrifice and triumph.*

An interview with the Children's
Ministers, Karla Lows & Nikki Soto.

**Give us an overview of the
Easter Experience.**

Karla: The Easter Experience is intended to be an immersive, interactive walk-through that retells the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection.

Nikki: It really brings it to life in a way that kids and adults would be able to connect with.

Karla: I grew up a theatre kid, and I always thought that if you can see someone acting out a story, it





makes it really different than if it's just written on a page. It's more believable, especially with the kids. I think if you can bring it to life, if you put someone in a Bible costume and put them on stage, kids are enraptured. Kids are immediately like, "oh, a Bible person!". And, that really was our original intent; to give kids something they can see, relate to, and understand on a deeper level.

How do you think it has changed since you started the Easter Experience?

Karla: It's wonderful. It's bigger and better than we ever intended or expected it to be.

Nikki: It's been impactful in ways that we couldn't imagine.

Karla: Yes! What we were finding was that it was impacting our volunteers as they were walking through with their kids. They would ask if they could bring their husband, neighbors, and others. From there, we began to want families to do this together. It's so important for families to have a shared experience. Most of the time, you drop your kids off at a different ministry during regular Sunday service times, but this is a shared experience that we want to





become a tradition in the households of those who experience it.

Nikki: Our volunteers would walk their small groups through and not be able to walk through a scene without weeping.

Karla: The first time we did it, we started upstairs in the Source. We would just bring the kids through on Easter Sunday. From there, we moved outside, and then inside the Source, as a complete takeover. Also, I think it scratched an itch for a lot of people that were here during the 'Journey to Bethlehem' years. We hear over and over again about people who started coming to Current because they were invited to 'Journey to Bethlehem', a different interactive experience Current did during Christmas-time years ago.





What does it take to pull off the Easter Experience?

Karla: The Lord's supernatural energy. *Laughs.*

Nikki: That's the TRUTH.

Karla: It's a lot of work. We transform the entire Source, into scenes of the last moments Jesus' life leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection. It takes a lot of manpower, and a lot of rehearsing, and building. We have a wonderful leadership team that spends countless hours and time working on scripts and all of the behind the scenes details.

Nikki: There are so many moving pieces. There's registration, time slots, guides, and much more happening behind the scenes.

How do you build the scenes?

Nikki: With lot's of tools. *Laughs.*

Karla: As far as the concepts go, we get on-line and look at pictures





of the Chosen and different biblical archaeological sites, and then we look at what we have to work with.

Nikki: We're on a budget, so we use a lot of cardboard, paper mâché, and a lot of foam board.

Karla: For real. We built archways out of cardboard and paper mâché last year. There's a lot of power tools, blood sweat and tears, baskets, pottery, and burlap. Many of the things we use are inherited from 'Journey to Bethlehem'.

Nikki: ...and all the grapes. *Laughs.*

Karla: We kind of work together to ask ourselves, 'what does this scene need?'

Why is this event important for our congregation?

Nikki: I think it's more important than Christmas, even if everyone



doesn't agree. Christmas is also fun and tells a super important story, but the weight of Easter is huge. It's about this amazing story of how we are now saved through Christ.

Karla: Everyone has holiday traditions, you may take your kids to

an Easter egg hunt, you may have ham. So, why wouldn't you include the actual Easter story as part of your holiday tradition? As a family, you get to go and experience the true feel of Easter. You know, we used to do egg hunts as a children's ministry here at Current, but we made a decision as a team, that we're going to focus our efforts on the true Easter story and let the bunny take care of himself. You can go anywhere in Katy and do an Easter Egg hunt, but where else can you do this?

What would you want someone to know who has never attended?

Nikki: It's probably one of the coolest ways to get the Gospel message presented to you in real life. If everyone could walk through something like that to see the Gospel played out for them, how many more people would be on fire for Jesus?

Karla: It's fun for us, because there's like hidden things in the walk-through experience, that if you know the story, you'll see it. For example, in the Last Supper scene, there's a door frame that was painted with blood. There's a lot of details to take in. You can walk through more than once and see something new, and that's on purpose.



*A Great Simple Recipe With
A Redemptive Twist*



A RECIPE FROM US •

Resurrection Rolls

As you go through each step of this delicious recipe, share the story of Jesus' death and resurrection with your family and friends.

This recipe makes 8 rolls, but you'll want to make more!

Prepare Ahead:

- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Lightly grease a baking sheet.
- Separate a 10-ounce can of refrigerated crescent rolls into individual triangles.
- Mix 2 tablespoons of sugar and 2 tablespoons of cinnamon together in a small bowl.
- Set 8 large marshmallows aside.
- Melt $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of butter.

Tell the Story as you Go:

- Begin by explaining that Jesus took the punishment for our sins...Jesus willingly gave up His life, on the cross, for us. The marshmallow will represent the body of Jesus taken down from the cross.
- Explain that the body of Jesus was prepared for burial with oils and spices. Roll the marshmallow in the melted butter then roll the marshmallow in the sugar/cinnamon mixture.
- Explain that the body of Jesus was wrapped in strips of cloth. Wrap the crescent roll around the marshmallow. Pinch the edges of the dough to make sure there are no gaps and the marshmallow is covered and encapsulated well by the crescent roll. Place the rolls on the cookie sheet and brush the outside of the rolls with butter. Sprinkle the rolls with a little of the sugar/cinnamon mixture.
- As you place the cookie sheet in a 400 degree oven for about 15 minutes (until rolls are golden brown), explain Jesus' body was placed in the tomb...and as you close the oven door add, "And a large stone was rolled in front of the tomb to seal it shut."
- While the rolls cook, you can read the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection from Luke 23:33-53 and Luke 24:1-12.
- Allow the rolls to set for a moment once they are taken from the oven.
- When you cut into the roll, you'll see it is just a shell. The marshmallow has melted away. Jesus' body is no longer in the tomb, nor is it wrapped in the strips of cloth anymore... He is risen! He is alive!



31 Days of Prayer



Over the next month, join us in dedicating a few minutes each day to prayer, giving gratitude, seeking guidance, and preparing our hearts for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Throughout the month of March, let the rhythm of prayer become a part of your everyday life.

1 | FRIDAY

As you begin 31 days of prayer, ask God to impress upon you how much you need this daily time with Him, how much you need HIM, and how much you need saving. **Luke 19:10**

2 | SATURDAY

Pray that God would help you focus on your relationship with him over the next month. Ask God to help you desire more of Him in your life.

Jeremiah 29:13

3 | SUNDAY

Thank God for His merciful love... that Christ would die for us before we even turned to Him.

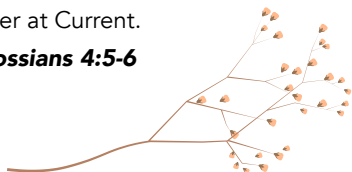
Romans 3:10-12



4 | MONDAY

Ask God to help you identify someone in your life whom you'd like to invite to Easter at Current.

Colossians 4:5-6



5 | TUESDAY

Thank God for His perfect love. Pray that He will remind you of His love for you and help you share His love with others. Ask Him to help you live for Him.

1 John 4:9

6 | WEDNESDAY

Pray for all the preparations for the Easter Experience at Current—the volunteers, actors, and details. Ask God to bring people to experience this who need to know about His love and sacrifice for them.

Romans 1:16

7 | THURSDAY

Thank God for His willingness to hear our prayers. Thank Him that He is always accessible through prayer. Ask Him to develop an even greater desire in you to connect with Him through prayer. **Psalm 116:2**

8 | FRIDAY

Ask the Lord to help you focus your heart and mind and life on Him. Ask Him to help you see if you have divided loves or interests that are taking your focus off of Him. **Psalm 86:11**

9 | SATURDAY

Pray that God would give you the ability to see Him at work, even in life's most difficult and challenging times. Ask Him to remind you that He is with you no matter what you face.

John 16:33



10 | SUNDAY

Ask God to help you consider participating in the special 30 pieces of silver offering and ask for His guidance as to what you should give.

Matthew 26:14-15

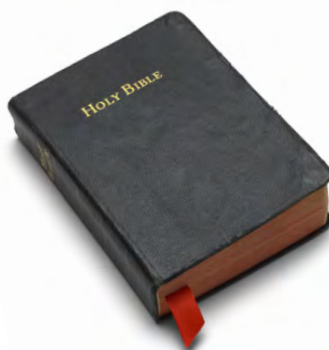
11 | MONDAY

Pray for God to show you someone who needs to be served, needs encouragement, or needs to know they are loved. Ask God to give you the words and deeds to express His love to them.

John 13:34, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 5:13

12 | TUESDAY

Ask God to bless the missionaries we help to support through the ministry of Current. Ask God to bring many souls to Him this season, not just here but all over the world. **Matthew 28:19-20**



13 | WEDNESDAY

Pray that the Lord would help you grasp how Jesus has freed us from the standard of perfection that the law set forth. Thank God that Jesus was perfect on your behalf. If you haven't already made Jesus your Lord and Savior, do so! Reach out to Current; you'll find the team ready to help. **Romans 8:1-4**



14 | THURSDAY

Are you withholding forgiveness from anyone? Pray and ask God to help you forgive. Recount how He has forgiven you. Release any right you may think you have to retaliate and instead, embrace the freedom of forgiveness. **Ephesians 4:32**

15 | FRIDAY

Pray for fresh perspective and joy as you follow Jesus. Ask God to bless you with a renewed excitement to serve Him and live for Him. Ask His forgiveness today and then feel His forgiveness and freedom. **Psalms 51:9-12**

16 | SATURDAY

Ask God to bless our worship band and vocalists and our technical team as they help lead us in worship of God every Sunday. Pray for them as they prepare for Easter weekend and ask God to bring many to Current who need Him. **Psalms 89:15**

17 | SUNDAY

Ask God to prepare your heart for worship today, that you would focus on Him. Ask the Lord to help you not only show up with the rest of the church family today, but leave different. **Hebrews 10:25**

18 | MONDAY

Pray to stay strong in a culture that doesn't accept Jesus as the one way to God. Ask God to help you speak the truth in love. **Acts 4:12**

19 | TUESDAY

Thank God for the truth of His Word. Thank Him that His Word endures forever and that it is the source of strength for those who love Him. **Psalms 119:105**



20 | WEDNESDAY

As you pray to the Lord, reflect on your relationship with Him. Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son, and that God raised Him from the dead?

Romans 10:9-10



21 | THURSDAY

Pray that God would give you a repentant heart. That He would help you make a willful decision to live for Him and not for yourself.

Acts 3:19



22 | FRIDAY

Ask God to help you boldly share and confess your faith in Jesus. Ask for opportunities to do this with your words and with how you live your life.

Acts 28:31

23 | SATURDAY

If you have been baptized into Christ already, ask God to help rekindle your excitement and commitment to live for Him. If you have not been baptized, ask God to direct you and show you what you need to do.

Acts 22:16

24 | SUNDAY

Ask God to help you die to self (turn your back on your own desires, sins, bad habits, selfishness) and to live a new life in Christ.

Romans 6



25 | MONDAY

As you pray, consider **Luke 9:23** and wrestle with and/or affirm your desire to serve the Lord through denial of self, the spiritual death of the old you, and intentionally following Jesus.

26 | TUESDAY

Thank God for his promise to keep working in us as we continue to surrender to Him. Thank God for not giving up on you. Praise God for His faithfulness, patience, and mercy in your life.

Philippians 1:6

27 | WEDNESDAY

Pray for those who are considering following Christ through belief, repentance, confession, and baptism. Ask God to move in many hearts this Easter season.

Acts 2:41-47

28 | THURSDAY

If you have acknowledged Jesus as your Savior, consider your spiritual condition before you encountered His grace. Thank God for saving you. If you are not sure of your salvation through Jesus, ask God to help you humble yourself and respond to Him.

Ephesians 2:1-9

29 | FRIDAY

Today is Good Friday. Pray a prayer of gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus for you on the cross. Pray that God would use our Good Friday service at Current to move us closer to Him.

Luke 23:44-49

30 | SATURDAY

For many of Jesus' followers, His death on the cross seemed like the tragic end of the story. Thank God that what appeared to be a defeat was really a victory over sin and death!

Colossians 2:13-15

31 | SUNDAY

Take time to thank God for the amazing gift of eternal life made possible by Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection. Ask God to help you live in the new and abundant life that Jesus gives!

**Matthew 28:1-6, Acts 4:12,
John 10:10**



He *is* RISEN!

Jesus has Risen!

Word Search

Find and circle the words shown in all capital letters.

Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

K C T E K A M S R H T O A Q T L T J T S H P
L G D A B H C I A A O Z F S S P C X E U Z I
M A G P K K R M E P A W E S A A A B Z N M L
Q R M C M R U O S O B U E Q I C V A T D P A
Q O U B Q M C N C S L N C H U Y R I R A E T
F P F G F A I O R T O G N W F A J I O Y K E
P P W Q A R F F I L O O V R Q W T S F R G D
C A Z X H Y I C S E D L X E S S T T R I Y Y
R A S Y J F X Y E S N M S T N R B J E H C U
L L L S D Z I R N G O L G O T H A E W I L E
N R I V O R O E G O T D U M C R O S S G L Y
I G G C A V N N L P N Q X B Z A J U H H O Q
S Z K M J R E E V R I B L E F Q Z S V P L M
G Z N Z W G Y R S J T G R Y E D F D H R O O
R O B E R O M A N S K S O N O F G O D I X Z
T S Q B E N A I L S Y U H N Z M B A L E S V
P J B T H R E E D A Y S N S N G H G K S L N
N C F A N G E L S W S Z G W Q V C N M T D B

ROMANS

RISEN

SACRIFICE

THREE DAYS

ANGELS

SAVIOR

PASSOVER

SUNDAY

BLOOD

SIMON OF CYRENE

JESUS

ROBE

LAMB

SON OF GOD

TOMB

APOSTLES

CROSS

NAILS

MARY

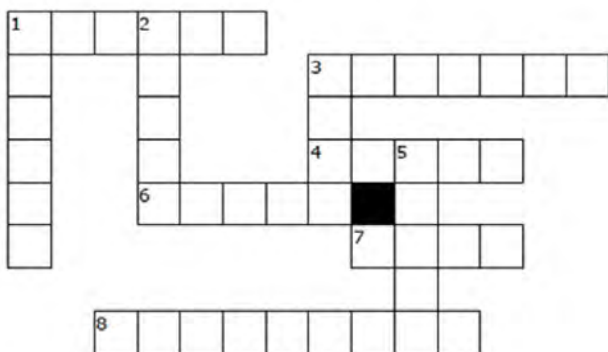
CRUCIFIXION

PILATE

HIGH PRIEST

Resurrection Crossword Puzzle

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." Mark 16:6 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. To be filled with fear
3. The first or early part of a day
4. To return from death
6. To have nothing inside
7. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
8. Having been put to death on a cross

DOWN

1. Messengers from heaven
2. Not dead
3. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb
5. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb

| | | | | |
|-------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|
| ALIVE | MORNING | EMPTY | AFRAID | ANGELS |
| TOMB | MARY | CRUCIFIED | RISEN | STONE |



At Current, **we are in full pursuit of Jesus.** We are a Jesus centered community that values transformation and authenticity. Our desire is to help people find Jesus and live sold out lives for Him in a way that impacts others.

Jesus called His disciples to be moved and He's calling us to do the same. He invites us to move out of our comfort zones, routines, and even out of our own lives, to follow Him. He gives us the option to trade our priorities, agendas, and goals for His life-changing mission.

Join us each Sunday!

Regular Sunday Service Times:

9:30am & 11:00am

Children's Ministry Services

Birth - 5th Grade

9:30am & 11:00am

The Dive

4th - 5th Grade

9:30 & 11:00am

Jr. High / HS Service Times:

6th - 12th Grade - Rooted

11:00am (The Source)



Show Up. Leave Different.

Get to know us here at Current.

