

ECBA Churches Celebrate Easter 2022

The celebration of Easter is a highlight in our churches every year. Each church wants to celebrate this history-changing event in a way that honors God and celebrates Jesus' victory over death. Services and outreach ministries draw people who often will not ordinarily attend, giving them an opportunity to hear the Easter story. They also give pause to regular services causing believers to reflect upon God's amazing grace, His love, and the sacrifice that that Jesus paid for each of us upon the cross.

This year was the first Easter for **Remedy City Church** in their new location, sharing **Halteman Village Baptist Church's** building. Remedy City held a Good Friday Service and saw 62 attend; several were not believers. On Easter Sunday, they had 78 in attendance at their service. They also hosted a breakfast for the combined congregations on Easter Sunday morning.

New Day Baptist Church's Muncie Campus held a Good Friday service. As part of the service the attendees went up to a white cloth where they painted a red stripe, symbolizing the stripes Jesus bore for their sins. For several years now, Senior Pastor, Chris Hubler, wears an unconventional suit for Easter Sunday. This tradition started when he was in Bible College and had a friend who sold the suits. His friend pointed him to a store in Indianapolis one year when he wanted to "go big"



Remedy City hosted breakfast for Halteman Village Baptist Church on Easter Sunday. Remedy City began sharing the church building with them this year.



As part of the Good Friday Service at New Day Baptist Church's Muncie Campus, attendees made a red stripe on a white cloth to represent the beating Jesus endured for their sins.

for Easter. The congregation now looks forward to seeing just what "peculiar" suit he will wear on this special Sunday. Many of the women also wear an "Easter bonnet" on Sunday.

Kingston Avenue Baptist Church hosted an Easter Egg Hunt at the church on Saturday. The event drew families with children and enabled them to share about the true meaning of Easter.

Redeemer Baptist Church began their Easter weekend with a Good Friday Service. This service was a solemn service filled with music and scripture. As the story of the Last Supper, arrest, beating, and crucifixion of Jesus was told, candles were extinguished, leaving everyone in the dark to reflect upon the price Jesus paid for our sins. Sunday morning began with a 7 am Sunrise Service followed by a breakfast then Sunday School. During the Easter Worship Service, the choir presented the Easter program, "It Happened on a Sunday."

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Dr. Ron Ross

The Katecheo

The Celebration of Easter 2022 & Worship

BACKGROUND

For many Christians, Easter is the highlight of every year's calendar. That is certainly the sentiment of this writer. In reflecting on that First Day celebration, actually every Sunday is a reminding celebration of validation...Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of God, He is the God-Man, He is the Creator, He is the Savior, He is the physical-image of the invisible God, He is Messiah, He is King of all kings, He is the returning Head for His Church, and He will be the Final Judge of every earthly inhabitant. Yes, indeed, His resurrection from the borrowed tomb is a verification of who He really is and all that He has done or will ever do.

WHAT IS WORSHIP

With that back-story, let us use it to understand the concept of "worship." According to the New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, the word "worship" appears some one-hundred and thirteen times in Scripture. After careful study, only sixty-three of those times describe "true worship of God." Other forms of the word, such as "worshipped" appears twenty-five times in reference to "true worship of God," and the word "worshipping" is used two times when referring to true worship of God.

The Hebrew word "shachah" first appears in Genesis 22.5 as Abraham told the servants he was going to worship with Isaac on the mountain. The word is used to denote "the bowing down," an appropriate position when meeting with the Creator. An interesting concept is conveyed in Genesis 4.3-4 as Cain and Abel brought their offerings to God. The word "minchah" is used, meaning "gifts, offerings, presents, tribute and sacrifices," and the combination of words would convey "a bowing down in homage and laying down or giving up something one truly cares about to honor their God."

Turning to the New Testament concept of "worship," the first word used is the word "proskyneo" in Matthew 2.2 as the Wise Men came to worship the new King. Here, the word denotes a "fall upon ones knees and touching the ground with the forehead as an express of profound reverence."

Obviously, the place, the time, and the manner have been debated down through the ages; however, Jesus made it clear as recorded in John 4.23-24...the place is anywhere, the time is anytime, and the manner is in the Spirit with our spirit in accordance with the truth of God's Word.

The Earliest church (Acts 2.41-47) was

devoted to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer, which seems to follow the purpose of the "synagogue" of Judaism. Remember the "synagogue" was a gathering place in an area where at least ten Jewish families lived. The "synagogue" was [1] a gathering place, [2] a place for study, and [3] a place for prayer. The additional "breaking of bread" was an observance of the Lord's Supper which obviously did not occur under the directives of "the Jewish Law."

As God directed Paul to advise the Ephesian congregation regarding their congregational meetings, He prefaced His guidelines regarding music in the service with a command—they needed to be filled (controlled) by the Holy Spirit. Once again, God directed Paul to advise a very carnal congregation, the Corinthians, as to the usage of "spiritual gifts" and other matters (Second Corinthians 12-14) related to public worship.

THE BOTTOM-LINE

With the changing of cultures, societal preferences, and the diminishing views of Scripture, "worship" of God is up for grabs from one congregation to another. As the supremacy of Scripture diminishes, true "worship" of God goes by the wayside. Just something to ponder on this springtime morning!



Please pray for our pastors and their wives on these special occasions.

Birthdays

May 21—Jeremiah Kinney
(Remedy City)

Wedding Anniversaries

None

Pastor-Church Anniversaries

None

Upcoming Events In May

May 7, 10:00 am — ECBA
Leadership Meeting at
Redeemer Baptist Church,
3230 Lindberg Road, Anderson
IN 46012

May 12, 7:00 pm — ECBA
Quarterly Meeting at Halteman
Village Baptist Church, 4100 N
Oakwood Ave, Muncie IN
47304. **Fellowship Meal at 6 pm**

May 19, 10:00 am — Leader Lab
at Old Town Hill Baptist Church,
3000 S Burlington Dr, Muncie IN
47302

SBC Emphasis for May

May 5—National Day of Prayer

May 15—SBC Seminary Sunday

More Pictures from Church Easter Celebrations



Kingston Avenue Baptist Church hosted an Easter egg hunt that gave them the opportunity to share about the true meaning of Easter.



Redeemer Baptist Church Choir presented the Easter program, "It Happened on a Sunday" with dramatic narration by Jason Seybert.



Redeemer Baptist Church in Anderson served a hot breakfast between their Sunrise Service and Sunday School.



New Day Baptist Church's congregation looks forward to seeing what "peculiar" suit Senior Pastor Chris Hubler will wear on Easter Sunday.



Several ladies don an Easter Bonnet for this special Sunday.

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Follow us



Don't Forget!

Quarterly ECBA Associational Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Halteman Village Baptist Church

4100 N Oakwood Avenue

Muncie IN 47304

7:00 p.m. Associational Meeting

6:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal

Quest Speaker: Joe Veal of You Turn Ministries