

“I am the
resurrection
and the life,
He who believes
in me will live,
even though he
dies...”

John 11:15



ANNANAGAR METHODIST CHURCH

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Coming up

Vacation Bible School

29th April - 5th May

INTOUCH

APRIL 2024

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From the Senior
PASTOR'S Desk

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This month, we will focus on reflecting upon the appearances of the Resurrected Lord Jesus. The forty days following His resurrection were pivotal in restoring the faith and purpose of His disciples. It's truly inspiring to consider the ministry of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ during this period. He sought out his disciples, who were once trained but now disheartened, disillusioned, and discouraged. His appearances to them on different occasions laid the foundation for the Church for generations to come. He exemplified how to interact with those who have potential but have strayed from their path.

The events and individuals Jesus met between His resurrection and ascension hold significant importance for the faith of the Church. According to Acts 1:3, **"After his suffering, he (Jesus) presented**

himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God."

While the Gospel writers may not have provided clear explanations for all these appearances, Luke, in Acts, emphasizes the abundance of undeniable evidence of Jesus' appearances. Therefore, the records provided by the Gospel writers are undoubtedly beneficial for readers and future generations of the Church.

The restrictive narratives begin with Mary's encounters with Jesus, detailing the significant roles of Mary Magdalene, Peter's repentance, and other disciples. The confession of Thomas also highlights Jesus' identity as the Lord. Moreover, Jesus appearing to 500 people confirms that His resurrection wasn't limited to just the twelve disciples or His inner circle; it was witnessed by inhabitants of Jerusalem, rulers of the state, and the Sanhedrin of the Jerusalem temple. Additionally, the gathering of 120 people in the upper room on the day of Pentecost further attests to the credibility of this resurrection narrative.

The visitations of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ is a unique, sacred, and powerful encounter with the early Church. This period includes the Great Commission, where Jesus declares, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you

always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). The ascension was Jesus' final earthly event, while the promise of the Holy Spirit's outpouring upon believers stands as another significant milestone for the Church.

The appearance of Jesus on the eighth day after His resurrection reminds us of His presentation at the Temple of Jerusalem as a baby on the eighth day after His birth. On this occasion, Jesus appeared to the entire group, including Thomas, as recorded in John 20:26-27. Thomas's response, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28), attests to the Disciples' acceptance of Jesus as Yahweh, a fact also noted by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:5. Additionally, Jesus was seen separately by James, as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:7.

Forty days following the Resurrection, Jesus led his disciples to Bethany, to the Mount of Olives. There, he lifted his hands and blessed them before departing. They left the Mount of Olives and returned to Jerusalem with great joy (Luke 24:50-52). During this time, the process of election was introduced in the church and Matthias was elected and added to the eleven disciples (Acts 1:23-26). Let's look forward to meaningful days of worship together as we reflect on and meditate upon the sacred words concerning the period between the Resurrection and Ascension.

With Blessings

Rev. Dr Andrew B Natarajan,
Senior Pastor.



AMC VBS 2024

BREAKER ROCK BEACH




ROMANS 12.2

at **ANNANAGAR METHODIST CHURCH**,
2655, 12th Main Rd, Block Y, Jawahar Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai

APRIL 29TH - MAY 5TH | 9am - 12pm

Registration- **Rs. 300**
Transport available to Annanagar & Mogappair

For more details contact Church office - 88259 29594
Directors- Tijitha 9840609006 | Ritika 9840983212



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April- 2024

Annual Theme

Remember, Consider, Imitate Leaders. *(Heb 13:7)*



Let us
WORSHIP
Together

Monthly Theme : **Appearances of Resurrected Jesus**

(Acts 1:3)

7 Apr 2024

Second Sunday after Easter

7.00 AM

Theme: My Lord, My God

Text: John 20:24-29

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Ms. Esther

9.00 AM

Theme: My Lord, My God

Text: John 20:24-29

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mr. Ashok Daniel. J

6.00 PM

YOUTH SERVICE

Preacher:

Mr. Neil Vimalkumar

14 Apr 2024

Third Sunday after Easter

7.00 AM

Theme: Feed my Lambs

Text: John 21:15-19

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading :

Mr. Jefferson Samuel

9.00 AM

Theme: Feed my Lambs

Text: John 21:15-19

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading :

Mr. Rajakumar Selyn

6.00 PM

Theme: John Lives?

Text: John 21:20-25

Preacher:

Dr. Philip R. Anbarasan

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Malathi Dinakaran

21 Apr 2024

Fourth Sunday after Easter

7.00 AM

Theme: Jesus appears publicly

Text: 1Corinthians 15:1-11

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Sharon Mathew

9.00 AM

Theme: Jesus appears publicly

Text: 1Corinthians 15:1-11

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Dr. K. Stephen Sudhakar

6.00 PM

Theme: Infallible Truths

Text: Acts 1:1-3

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading :

Mr. Joel Kumar

28 Apr 2024

Fifth Sunday after Easter

7.00 AM

Theme: Church Election

Text: Acts 1:15-26

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mr. Jeffry Franklin Samuel

9.00 AM

Theme: Church Election

Text: Acts 1:15-26

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mr. Nicolas Jawahar

6.00 PM

Theme: Church Election

Text: Acts 1:15-26

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Joanita Samuel

Welcome to WSCS
on 6th April '24 **At 5pm**
Venue: AMC
"Knowing
GOD the HOLY SPIRIT"
Message by
Rev. Dr. Grace Ida Rajan
Come and be blessed

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES

Apr 7th - 13th
COMMAND

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.
Mark 12:30

Apr 21st - 27th
COMMAND

And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.
Mark 12:31

Apr 14th - 20th
PROMISE

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
Matthew 5:6

Apr 28th - May 4th
PROMISE

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 5:10

NKJV

Hymn Story



“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

The United Methodist Hymnal, 302

Author : **Charles Wesley (1707–1788),**

Music : **Lyra Davidica,**

Tune : **“Easter Hymn.”**

Introduction :

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

For many in the English-speaking world, Easter Day is inextricably associated with singing “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”. Of the original eleven stanzas published under the title “Hymn for Easter Day” most hymnals use only four, or sometimes as many as seven.

Early Days :

Charles Wesley was born in 1707 as the eighteenth child of Samuel and Susannah Wesley’s overall nineteen. He was born premature, and was at

first thought to be dead. But God had much in store for little Charles, and wouldn't allow death to take him just yet. It took a few unsure weeks, but baby Charles finally became healthy. It's a good thing too, because Charles Wesley went on to become the most successful hymn writer to ever live.

Story behind the Hymn :

The first Wesleyan Chapel in London, England, was a deserted iron foundry. It became known as the **Foundry Meeting House**. This hymn was written just one year after Charles's dramatic Aldersgate conversion experience.

For about 300 years now, this hymn and its variants have been sung in English Churches to commemorate and celebrate that Sunday morning about 2000 years ago when Jesus Christ walked out of His tomb, demonstrating that He had forever triumphed over sin and death for both Himself and all His people.

The earliest forms of the hymn can be traced back to a Latin text from the 14th century. In 1708 the four Latin stanzas were translated into English and published by J. Walsh in *Lyra Davidica* under the title "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today." A few decades later, in 1739, a modified version was published by John and Charles Wesley in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* under the title "Hymn for Easter Day."

What a difference an "Alleluia" makes ! "Alleluia! He is risen indeed !"

Originally, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" was

sung to a different tune, and without any of the 'alleluias.' Being an Easter song, it was only logical to add 'alleluia' to the end of each line, for the word means 'Praise to the Lord.' Early Christians used it as a greeting on Easter with the now-familiar call and response: 'Alleluia! He is risen!' 'Alleluia! He is risen indeed!' After the change had been made to the lyrics, the tune was modified to accommodate, and thus was born the version we all know and sing today.

The lyrics draw Bible Verses:

Each verse of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" features a focus on the Resurrection of Jesus. For the final verse, Wesley uses descriptive language to describe four requirements for Christians to enjoy eternal life with God. The focuses are for Christians: to know God, to bear witness to God, to sing their faith and to love one another.

The lyrics of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" draw inspiration from a number of Biblical texts. The overall focus of the hymn is drawn from Matthew 28:5 - 6 where Mary Magdalene and the other Mary is told by an angel of Jesus' resurrection. The wording as well as the "Alleluias" are drawn from the Book of Psalms with a number of Psalms being used including Psalms 106, 111, 112, 113, 117 and 135.

Final Stanza :

By the time we sing the final stanza, we have arrived in heaven—not just as members of the heavenly court - but as companions to the "King of Glory" with knowledge of the Creator and witnesses to God's power as we sing to and love God eternally :

King of Glory, Soul of bliss,
Everlasting life is this,
Thee to know, Thy power to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love !

While truly a "Hymn for Easter Day," this is also a hymn about humanity's relationship with the Eternal One. It is about humanity's full transformation into the image of Christ – imago Christi – and the ultimate consummation of our perfection in Christ.

References:

Book : 101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth W. Osbeck

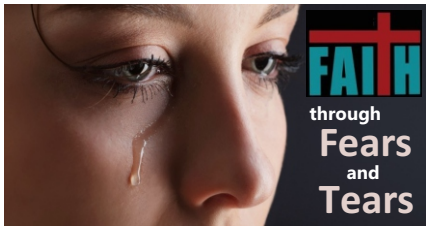
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- Compiled by **Joel & Carol**



"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4

James writes to believers about trials and the purpose for them.

Tests remind me of the tests we have all taken throughout our school and college years. Can I say nobody likes tests? Did any of us joyfully anticipate tests in schools? No. The opposite has always been true. Tests help the teacher and student evaluate how much the student has understood the lesson. Tests are of different kinds, as small as a class test to a big one like the board exam. When we do not know the answer and are fuming with the question paper, the teacher does not come over and help us with the answer but keeps her calm. We either pass or fail a test. When we pass a test, we move to the next grade. If we fail an exam, we take a retest.

This analogy fits perfectly with the tests God sends our way.

1. Trials are sent to us by our loving God.
2. Trials are multi-purposed.
3. One purpose of a trial is to help us understand the strength or weakness of our faith.
4. Trials come from nowhere. It is beyond our control.
5. Trials are of various kinds, like the death of a loved one, terminal illness, job loss, prodigal sons and daughters, a difficult marriage, separation, divorce, the birth of a special child, childlessness, chronic pain, and so on.
6. One of these situations is always a reality in our lives – we have just come out of a trial, or we are going through a trial or about to encounter a trial.
7. God will send us trials as long as we live in this world.
8. God uses Satan as His messenger to deliver the trials to us (Job1:12)
9. We either pass or fail the test.
10. If we pass the test, we move on to the next level. If we fail the test, God gives us a retest.

Let's go through two passages from the Bible – the first one where people failed the test and the second where the person passed the test.

Passage 1: Mark 4: 36-41 (Test failed)

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."

36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with

them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.

38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

This short yet powerful passage shows that the disciples are hit by a storm from nowhere. Remember that these are skillful, professional fishermen, and they begin to fear the waters. Jesus seems to have a sound sleep amid the storm. He went to the stern, placed a cushion, and dozed off. For the disciples, the storm on the outside led to a storm on the inside.

When they woke Jesus up and asked Him, "*Do you not care?*" it implied the following:

1. We shouldn't be going through this ordeal if you cared about us.
2. How can you sleep when we are going through a dangerous storm?

Jesus wakes up, calms the sea, and asks them, *"Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"* and it implies the following:

1. You shouldn't have been afraid.
2. I did not want you to fear the storm but rather have faith amid the storm.

Jesus was essentially teaching them that faith and fear cannot coexist. In a trial, it is never 50 percent faith and 50 percent fear. It is either faith in God or fear of our circumstances.

Initially, the disciples were afraid of the storm itself, but after Jesus calmed the storm, they were filled with great fear for Him (v41). This shift in their focus taught them to fear Jesus more than anything else. This raises the question, what are we afraid of? They learned to fear Him than the thing they were fearful of a while ago. What about you? What are you fearing? Are you fearing your circumstance, or are you fearing God?

Although Jesus clearly mentioned, "Let us go across to the other side," the disciples forgot His words when they encountered the storm. They also forgot all the miracles they saw Jesus perform.

We, as believers, tend to do this when we face trials of various kinds.

1. We easily forget what Jesus had said in His word.
2. We easily forget what Jesus had done in the past.

Clearly, the disciples failed the test Jesus, their Teacher, and Master, had sent their way.

Passage 2: Genesis 22:1-1 (Test passed)

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.

⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy^[a] will go over there and worship and come again to you."

⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.

⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and

laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

In this remarkable passage, we learn about the genuine faith of Abraham, who is known as the Father of Faith. God tests Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac, whom he had with Sarah when they were 90 and 100 years old, respectively. God had promised Abraham that He would continue His covenant with Isaac and that he would have many descendants through Isaac. However, we see no fear, frustration, complaining, or anger on Abraham's side all through the passage. Abraham is calm and composed amid the unexpected storm. How did Abraham have this unshakable faith in God? Let me tell you how.

1. Abraham knew that his God forbade the pagan practice of human sacrifice and that He would not do anything against His nature.
2. Even if he had to kill Isaac, Abraham knew God would raise him from the dead. (Hebrews 11:19)

Abraham knew his God, His nature, and that God

never lies. Abraham passed the test. God testified, saying, " For *now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.*" (v 12b)

My dear brother/ sister, who are you when a storm hits you? Do you encounter your trials with joy? Can God challenge Satan to test your faith just as He did with Job? Or Are you someone who complains about your circumstances and gets mad at God? Do you continue to fail the tests God sends your way?

Whenever God said, "Fear Not," He always followed up with, "For I am with You." Because God is with us, we do not have to fear our circumstances. Take courage from knowing God from His word.

In conclusion, I want to encourage everyone going through a storm with a stanza from an old hymn:

Be still, my soul; thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

- Mrs. Lency Daniel

Prayer Pointers



- ❖ The Episcopal Leaders - Bishop Dr. E.D. Yesurathnam and Mrs. Evangeline Yesurathnam.
- ❖ The Pastors and Office Staff.
- ❖ The growth of Christ Methodist Church, Vaitheeswaran Koil and Living Word Methodist Church, Chidambaram in all the aspects.
- ❖ General Elections.
- ❖ General Conference Episcopal Elections.
- ❖ VBS 2024.
- ❖ Those who are sick and in pain, especially Ms. Constance Samuel, Mrs. Jebathai Chellaiah, Mrs. Sunija Christilda, Mr. Rabiraj, Mrs Priya David, Mrs. Janette Michael and Mrs. Janet E. Benjamin.
- ❖ Those seeking job and life partner.
- ❖ The Sunday School, MYF, WSCS, Methodist Men, Elders Fellowship, Cell groups, Bible Study, Young Adults, AMC choirs and other activities of the Church to function effectively for the constant spiritual growth.
- ❖ All the elders and single parents.
- ❖ The Nation and the Governments at the Center and the States.
- ❖ The Global affairs - economy, ecology, peaceful atmosphere.
- ❖ The Pastorate Conference and the Pastorate Committee members to contribute constructively for the expansion of God's kingdom through Annanagar Methodist Church.