



Ashamed. Afraid. Absent. Mere hours after they pledged never to leave Jesus—even to die with Jesus—the Eleven were now here near the cross as the sun began to set. The Roman soldiers were still there though and pierced His side to prove Jesus was very, very dead. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, an unlikely duo, show up at the cross. These two members of the Sanhedrin shed their secret discipleship and took responsibility for burying Jesus' body. Wrapping Him in enough spices for a king, they laid Him in a nearby tomb. Remembering Jesus' words, the Jewish authorities and Pilate secured the tomb and posted a guard there to keep the three-day resurrection story from gaining any traction. Early Sunday morning, a small band of faithful women approached His tomb wondering who could remove the rock that sealed the entrance. Imagine their shock as an angel announced to them that Jesus was not there, "He is risen, just as He said!" Hearing the news, Peter and John sprinted to the tomb. They, too, found it empty. As Mary Magdalene remained weeping, Jesus appeared to her. Later the same day, an unrecognized Jesus approached two downcast disciples on the road to Emmaus. Evidently all of Jerusalem was abuzz with the events of the last three days. The One whom they had trusted to redeem all of Israel had been crucified and they were disappointed. Some silly women even had an unbelievable angelic vision and the tomb was empty. But what's a guy to do except head home to Emmaus? Jesus admonished the two for their unbelief. Then He used Moses and the Prophets to teach them about the Messiah. Jesus dined with them that evening. When their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, He disappeared from their sight, but they finally got it! So they headed back to Jerusalem at full speed and full of joy to report their experience to the Eleven. They were interrupted there by yet another Jesus appearance. An empty tomb and two appearance reports later, the disciples still covered and mistook Jesus for a ghost when He spoke to them. "Touch me

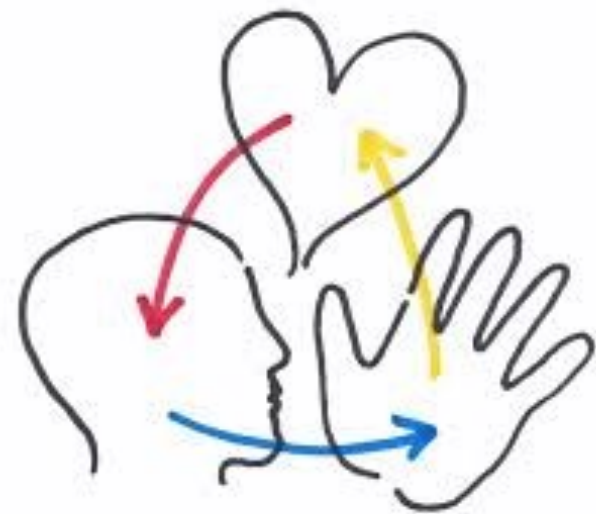
and see," He said as He showed them His hands and feet. When Jesus reexplained the Old Testament in light of all that had happened, He opened their minds so they too finally understood. Thomas was not about to believe these second-hand stories. He wouldn't believe it until he saw the nail marks for himself. A week later, Jesus graciously appeared to Thomas and the others just so he could touch the scars for himself. Thomas confessed, "My Lord and My God!" Yes, now he believed that Jesus was the God-man and that He was risen indeed. Sometime later, Jesus appeared to the disciples by the Sea of Galilee. Having caught nothing all night, Jesus told these fishermen to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. The miraculous catch was so great that they could hardly get the fish into the boat. It prompted Peter to bail out and head to the Lord. Over a beach breakfast, Jesus three times asked Peter if he loved Him. Then He told Peter three times to care for His sheep. The Eleven met Jesus on a Galilean mountain where He commissioned them to continue to carry out His mission by saying, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." As God, Jesus had all authority to now commission His disciples to carry out the building up of His new community of believers who would be identified with the Triune God. They in turn could accomplish their mission because, as Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23), He would be with them to do so. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ vindicated Him as the Son of God. It is the cornerstone of the Christian faith and the climax of God's great story of redemption. The redemptive work was finished, but now there was more work to do to spread the good news, and this ragtag group of disciples were just the ones to do it, armed with the supernatural power headed their way.

## Prayers

The Heights— Covid-19 is effecting many residents.

Lauren Babb— Upcoming procedures options for heath and pain.

\*Long Term Prayer List can be located on the Bulletin Board in the foyer.



## By the Numbers

**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE**  
 Sunday Morning—46  
 Sunday Bible Class—18

**WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION**  
**LAST WEEK**  
 Offering: \$2613  
 Special: \$200

## Announcements

The Flag Pole is Up! Thank you to Perry and Henry for the Flag Pole. This is in memory of Dawn Clarke.

## Weekly Events

**TUESDAY MORNING**

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellow-

## PATHWAY PREP

### News & Events

We have started up classes again and are excited to grow and learn with you!

School is off and going!

We are praying for a great year!

We will be looking at having a swimming party for the Pathway Prep the weekend of the 12th! More details to come!



IF YOU HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OR PRAYER REQUESTS YOU WISH TO HAVE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN, PLEASE CONTACT: **PAIGE MILLS AT (806)454-0742 OR [paige@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org](mailto:paige@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org)**