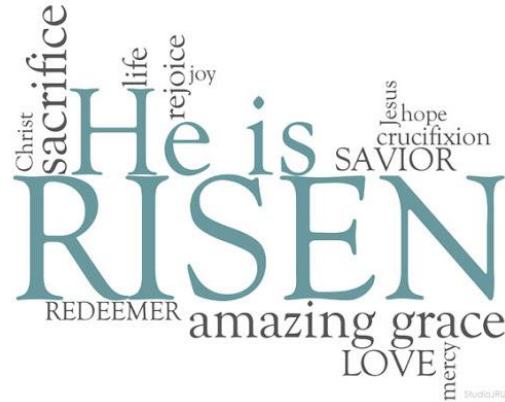


EASTER: FEAR & JOY

Bible reading: [Matthew 28:1-10 NIV](#)

It's Holy Week in the Christian calendar. Good Friday and Easter approach. Like those at the tomb, we know something of living in the extremes of fear and joy, what with the new realities of life (in a worldwide pandemic). Fear dominates this part of the resurrection story (Matthew 28): the earth trembles in a mind-bending earthquake; the ostensibly fearless, hulky guards are so afraid they faint; the women are frightened by the angel, and then just as they attempt a quick getaway from the tomb, they are greeted by the ghost of their dead friend Jesus. It isn't the tulips and lilies image we have of Easter. But the phrase that captures my attention as I read it is this: *with fear and joy* they ran to tell the others. With fear and joy. Scared out of their wits, and afraid that what they saw is too good to be true, they nevertheless leave with fear and joy to tell others on the outside chance that it was true. We know something of fear; we know something of joy; but it is the "and" that we don't always grasp. Fear AND joy.

Notice in this story that is burdened with fear, that Jesus doesn't take away their fear nor does he replace it with joy. In fact, he greets them in their fear before he invites them to be unafraid. It is the experienced power of fear and joy that send them on their way, excited about something new, something mysterious and unknown. We try to make sense of the mystery of resurrection because we think it will be the answer to death and pain. We accept without questioning that joy will be known only in the absence of fear. But even in their non-scientific world, the gospel writers knew that it didn't work that way. Life AND death, peace AND chaos, joy AND fear are the realities of life. As people of faith we realize that the way the universe works has more to do with relationship than control. We are more co-creators with God than the objects of God's good will or miraculous rescue. We are co-redeemers with God offering salvation from the power of fear to control by creating the joy of this divine order. We may want answers and solutions and miracles; what we are given is courage and faith and joy during the storm.



(Source: Gary L. McCann [The New England Church Pulpit](#))

Submitted and revised by C. Verbeek



Monday: Noah Rheubottom- Gr. 2
Thursday: Jaedyn VanRooyen- SK

For your Information:

Prayer Corner: We continue to thank God for his overflowing blessings and love, for the gift of God's grace and salvation, for new growth we see in the signs of spring, for technology, for the love and care of others. Pray for all those who are struggling with health and with new realities in our community and around the world. Many families are feeling the impact of layoffs and work disruptions. Pray for them as they face uncertainty. If you have specific prayer requests, be sure to pass those along to our prayer team through j.mulder@woodstockchristian.ca. Please pray for our students and families and staff as we face new issues, establish new routines, and work through new challenges. Blessings for Good Friday and Easter remembrance and celebration with your church families.

Ontario government helps parents An Ontario government initiative that you as parents may want to investigate is as follows: [Support for Parents Application](#) Ontario is helping families pay for the extra costs associated with school and daycare closures during the COVID-19 outbreak by providing a payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including children enrolled in private schools. This is a one-time payment to parents to help keep children engaged by purchasing educational apps, devices, school supplies and other educational tools. This fund should be available for parents to apply for by April 6. (See [Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#))

WCS building is closed: Last week WCS received an Extension of Closure notice from the Ministry of Education. In addition, the local Board of Health has posted a notice on our front door indicating that the building is closed, and in response to my inquiries, emphasized that the school remains off-limits for parents, students and community until further notice. That includes pickup of desk contents and personal items, access to the public for rentals, or as a workplace.

Virtual Classroom Meetings - One of our priorities in setting up our emergency remote learning at WCS was to keep connecting with students and families, using face-to-face, or voice-to-voice meetings as well as possible. As we planned and prepared for our continuity plan, we considered our best options: Google Meet, SeeSaw, Zoom. In using these, all of us have been blessed to meet virtually every day. It is great for students to see classmates, teachers to see students, and parents to participate in or observe these new ways of interacting. Our goal for all our ways of learning includes safety and security. You may have heard about the media attention that Zoom has been getting lately. With schools across the world moving learning on-line, it went from 100 000 users to millions of users in a matter of a few days. With that significant increase of usage, there have been stories of hacking and uninvited guests joining in meetings. This weekend Zoom has updated their program to change some of the default settings to make their meets more safe and secure. There are enhanced features which include allowing only the teacher to control the meeting - the microphones, the participants, the codes. Passwords and "waiting rooms" are now enabled to prevent uninvited guests. As an added security measure, WCS has removed the meet times from our web site so that information is internal only, to ensure that our meetings continue to be one of the daily highlights for WCS students.

No classes: There will be no classes for WCS students and teachers on Good Friday (Apr10) or Easter Monday (Apr13). Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 14th.

Pictures: Please send us pictures of your family working on some of the items from the Easter board! We would love to see them and share them with our community. Please email them to j.mulder@woodstockchristian.ca

Parent survey: Thanks to all who completed our survey. Thank you for your honest feedback. We had a high response rate and are getting a sense of what is working for your family, what is not, and with this information, we can adjust and prepare for anticipated future weeks of this emergency remote learning situation. Preliminary takeaways from last week's parent survey include the following:

1. Families are doing 'okay' with this new way of learning-at-home. Getting familiar with technology and balancing commitments seem to be a big piece of this.
2. About 80% of families said 'no' or 'not yet' to adding additional subjects and tasks. So, we will go slow and keep it simple.
3. 90% of parents rated WCS 4/5 or 5/5 for meeting our goal of maintaining a sense of community among students in a class. This is encouraging as WCS maintains a focus on integrating 'faith, learning, & community'. Hooray for Responsive Classroom training and for teachers who know how to create classrooms where students belong.
4. Top highlights are the class Zoom/Meet sessions. Students are very happy to see their teachers and classmates. Highlights are also staying home! and students working at their own pace.

Please continue to share with us your questions and concerns. As much as possible, students should be coming to teachers with their questions. A reminder to do the best you can, given your family's specific situation. We are extending grace as you navigate these new times, so don't be too hard on yourself as you try to juggle work, childcare, the tech side of connected learning, and all the other matters facing you. You don't need to get everything done. This is what we as a school are offering to support your child's learning. If we need to show you how to access or use technology, or use it better, ask and we will help.

Yes, we want your children to keep learning and being students and we expect them to be working, but there is flexibility in this time of emergency remote learning.

In my readings this weekend, I came across this in an education journal. From edweek.org Jennifer Gallagher, a school superintendent in Long Beach, N.Y. says to parents:

"Don't worry if you are not the perfect 'homeschooling' parent; don't worry if you are torn between working at home and helping your kids. Don't let your kids spend nine hours a day doing schoolwork online... Don't let these days be joyless for your kids.

Parents have the ability and the permission to shut off the valve, take a break, judge whether their kids need less or more. There's no reasonable way many families can replicate a school day in their own homes....Families need to let go of any guilt they may feel that they're not able to juggle every single task perfectly at such an extraordinary time."

We as teachers and administration continue to pray for you and your family. More survey results will be shared in the coming days.

For fun, watch this. We are all in this together!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfXBa6uyLLY>

Family Creates Video That Captures Homeschooling Realities During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Student Support - Mrs. Bulthuis: Barton, Dyna read, and Learning Place sessions were successfully launched last week! Thanks for helping your child get set up with the necessary supplies and logged in at the right times. To help increase online security, we will email you the passwords that have been added to join our Zoom meetings. If you have any questions or feedback about your child's program, please do not hesitate to contact us. Due to the upcoming holiday weekend, there will be no online sessions this Friday or next Monday. Have a blessed Easter weekend!

JK- Mrs. Westerveld- Welcome to a beautiful new spring week. This week we focus on Jesus' death and resurrection. May the joy of the risen Saviour be yours! We also continue learning about Spring and will do a lot of outdoor keRning this week. See you at our zoom on Tuesday at 9. Have a great week!

SK- Mrs. Poort- Spring feels like it is finally here. Wow I am so impressed with this class and how everyone is doing such a great job getting everything done. Keep up the awesome work SK. Practice your sight words and jolly phonics books often. Zoom has a password, be sure you type it in. Refer back to the zoom email for that password.

Tues - Would have been library day so be sure to read a story at home.

Wed - Show and share - something that reminds you of easter.

Fri - No online class

SK- Miss Body- Welcome to Holy week. As we remembered the entry into Jerusalem last Sunday let us reflect this week on the events leading up to our Lord's sacrifice for each of us. I hope you are enjoying the sunshine- something I am most thankful for. Please enjoy the family centred activity board focused on Holy Week.

Thursday 9th: Happy Birthday Jaedyn

Gr. 1- Mrs. VanderPloeg- Welcome to another week! It is Holy Week – a week that is special for Christians as we remember the days leading up to our Saviour's death (and resurrection!) I pray that you are able to take time to slow down and read through an account of the Easter story with your family. Be sure to check out the ideas on the Easter Choice board that was shared with you this morning! We will be having some special guests for our Zoom meetings throughout this four-day week! Try to pop on (even for just a few minutes!) to chat and visit with our guests. Thank you for all the effort you've been putting in to help your child through this time. I am so grateful to be teaming with you! Be blessed this week!

For any other information, please check out Google Classroom and email if you have any questions or concerns!

Gr. 2- Mrs. Horinga- Way to go families on completing your first 5 day week of e-learning! Parents, thank you so very much for help at home. Also thank you for your feedback, it was greatly appreciated and good to hear how things are going for your family. This week we will focus on the upcoming celebration of Easter - enjoy the activities as a family. In spelling we will learn about bossy r spellings. Keep working on telling time using an analog clock. May you find time to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord this Easter weekend.

Gr. 3- Mr. Hiemstra- This is Easter week as we remember the love of God for His children in sending His Son to the cross! I hope you have a blessed Easter. Check out the daily activities that you can do [here](#) for your entire family! On Thursday we hope to have a math quiz on time. There will be no spelling test this week; it will be next Friday instead.

Gr. 4A- Mrs. VanAndel- Welcome back to a another week of learning, grade 4!

I pray that you will all have a blessed Easter weekend later this week. Jesus loves us all so much. Thank you Jesus for your sacrifice on the cross for us!

Gr. 4B- Mrs. Hickey- Welcome to a new week. We will focus on Good Friday and Easter for devotion and Bible times with our families. Check out the Easter choice board sent to you and found on the WCS website. We will continue the novel study of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. No spelling this week. Have a great week.

Gr. 5- Mr. H- Welcome to another week of remote learning. From my point of view, Gr. 5 is transitioning quite well. I'd say about 90% of the key technology lessons are complete which means students should feel that they have "less on their plate" this week. Most students are now comfortable getting their pictures/scanned work into Google Classroom. Many students prefer to do their assignments online and have become proficient with Kami (a pdf editing program) and google docs.

Using the feedback from the survey that was sent out to all parents, we as staff at WCS have decided not to proceed with any additional subjects until more families are feeling ready for it.

I will continue to provide a list of "Anchor Activities" for students to choose from if they finish all their work.

This week's devotional and language arts assignment is to participate in some family Holy Week activities leading up to Easter. Please see Grade 5's Google Classroom for this document - under devotions.

Gr. 6- Mrs. Bigham/Mrs. Sikma/Mrs Martin- Please go to Google Classroom for information

Gr. 7- Mrs. Racicot- Please go to Google Classroom for information

Gr. 8- Mr. Schaafsma- Welcome to a new 'shorter' week of Remote Learning. This week we will continue with The Hobbit and Math online with Nimbus. Also look for our 'Holy Week Choice Board for Families' activities, where you get to do some fun Easter activities together with your family as we look forward to Easter Sunday and the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection! There will be no online learning on Friday this week or Monday next week. Enjoy your week!