

The Springfield Redeemer



Behold the Lamb of God
Who takes away the
sins of the world!
John 9:29

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

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A Savior is Born by Brianna Quero née Blanchard

Happy Spring! With Passover and Resurrection Day having just passed, I thought it would be a great time to examine the life of Jesus; the importance of the events surrounding His birth and death, and the symbolism present.

Let's go back to the beginning. We know from the Gospel of Luke that Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus, was traveling with her husband, Joseph, to his hometown of Bethlehem to register for the census. While in Bethlehem, it came time for Mary to give birth to Jesus (Luke 2:1-6). We were taught that because there was no room for Mary at the inn, she was forced to give birth in a filthy stable surrounded by animals, where she laid an infant Jesus in a feeding trough. Hardly a fitting place for the King of Kings!

There are fields in Bethlehem, known as the Shepherds' Fields, among which is a structure called the Tower of the Flock. These fields were for raising the cattle used for sacrificial purposes, and the Tower of the Flock was a holy, clean place specifically for the birthing of the sacrificial lamb. The sacrificial lambs were expected to be spotless – they had to remain clean and unharmed from the moment of birth until exactly one year later when they were offered as sacrifice, usually around Passover time.

It is likely that this is the place where Mary gave birth to Jesus – and in the springtime, no less. Jesus was birthed in the holy Tower of the Flock, where He was wrapped in swaddling clothes to protect Him and keep Him spotless, just like the lambs for sacrifice. Isn't that amazing? His purpose was made clear from the moment He got here! To be the sacrifice of sacrifices. Interestingly, following the angel's appearance to the shepherds announcing the arrival of the Messiah (Luke 2:8-14), the shepherds knew exactly where to find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Another clue that the Messiah was born and swaddled in a sacred and holy place, known to the shepherds, beginning the fulfillment of His purpose here.

Fast forwarding in His life, we can see more symbolism in His last supper with His disciples before His death and resurrection. This last supper was actually a Passover meal, and also when the first communion occurred. "And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'this cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood'" (Luke 22:19-20 ESV). By Jesus directing the disciples in this way during their meal, He was saying to them that He was soon to become the sacrificial lamb that Passover holiday.

The crucifixion of Jesus was monumental. He took on the pain of sacrifice in order to protect humanity from the judgment of God. The Bible is clear: the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). He took on this punishment so that we would have the choice not to. The first sacrificial lambs slain for Passover were done so in order to protect the households from the judgement of God during the Angel's physical passing over as outlined in Exodus 12. The families were instructed to paint the spilled blood of the lambs on their doorposts to protect their first born from the destructive plague. At the first communion, we saw that Jesus' disciples consumed the bread, which was symbolic of the body of Jesus. At the first Passover in Exodus, the sacrificial lamb had to be eaten, as well as the blood spilled and painted on the doorposts in order for the ritual to be brought to completion and for the protection from the plague to be established.

From the moment Jesus was born to the moment He died and rose again, His spotless and sinless life fulfilled His purpose to be the ultimate sacrificial lamb. The symbolism in His birth, Passover, and His crucifixion teaches us that nothing God plans is coincidence – nothing is an accident, and our Father is intentional in how He uses us to bring glory to Him.

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 6, 2021 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

We would like to extend a warm invitation to come to the National Day of Prayer to be held at Springfield City Hall steps, starting at 6:00.

Our theme will be 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

We need you to make a sincere effort in inviting family, friends, and church members to come out and support this service of worship and prayer!

Prayer and Praises from RGMS Evangelist Pastor Renzo Ventrice!

News from March:

Pastor Renzo visited 4 more churches in March, making a total of 43 new relationships formed with local pastors since last August. Our hope is to preach revival and teach Christian History in New England.

He shares the urgent need for New England churches to come together in fervent prayer for revival and evangelism and leaves the RGMS Newsletters with all the Pastors he visits.

Praise Report: April 9, 2021 Fund Raiser!

The Spanish food was a big hit; especially the desserts! And there was a choice of barbecued chicken or pork. People enjoyed the fellowship of working together, and some folks gave extra generously! The final total was just over \$800.



Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: New: Pastor Steve Cooley will be leading Coffee House Church from 3 to 5 p.m.

Stay tuned! Pastor Bobby and Kimberly are returning to live, in-person Sunday Services!

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. *Come and be blessed!*

THURSDAY: FIAT Thursday 7 p.m., May 27.

Alert! Planned for June:

We are all so excited about what God is doing in the Pioneer Valley as we seek him in Unity, Prayer and Worship. We are planning a 6 day outdoor Service to be held June 7th through June 12th.

Organized by daniel@fishersofmen-ne.org
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May Fundraiser: Italian Dinner May 7, 2021, 3 to 6pm

Come and contribute to Holy Grounds Coffee House and enjoy a delicious meal!!

Menu: spaghetti with three kinds of sauce: meat, sausage, or veggie; garlic bread, salad, dessert, and soda for the small donation of \$10.00.

Dinners will be ready for pick up or delivery, at Holy Grounds Coffee House 455 State Street, Springfield, MA

To order please call 413-626-6807, 413-330-4658, 413-885-5777, or email lasavior@aol.com.

