



SPRINGTOWN PASTORS FELLOWSHIP

Springtown Epigraph Special Section • Thursday, April 14, 2022

The Birthing Tomb

BY DAVID BENNETT

Preaching Minister for the Springtown Church of Christ

“What’s happening over in the cemetery?”

“I’m not sure.”

“That lady said one of the tombs just gave birth!”

If a woman gives birth in a manger, everyone stops to look. If a tomb gives birth in a cemetery, everyone stands in awe.

Christmas watches Jesus’

birth from the womb. Easter sees the birth from the tomb. Angels announce the womb event. Angels roll the stone away and quietly declare the tomb event.

Jesus is birthed in many ways. He is the “only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18). He is the miraculously conceived firstborn son of Mary. He is also “the firstborn of the dead” (cf. Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5).

The tomb is not a funeral

event only. Yes, Jesus died on the cross. Yes, Joseph laid him in his own tomb. Yes, the women were coming to finish the burial early on the first day of the week.

The tomb is also a birthing event. For three days, Jesus remained in the belly of the earth. Before time, God prepared his resurrection (cf. Ephesians 1:3), his birthing from the tomb, his becoming the firstborn of the dead. He comes out of the tomb never

to die again. He comes out in victory to share his life with every believer.

The cross is God’s power over sin. The birthing tomb is the power of resurrection over death. Christians rejoice with the message of hope. We revel in the fact that one of us refused to stay in the tomb. One became the firstborn of the dead.

Baptism becomes one’s personal birthing tomb. One enters death through sin. One

enters life anew by being born again. Here is Paul’s teaching in Romans 6:4. “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (NASB) Entering the birthing tomb of baptism brings Jesus’ empty tomb into the present and energizes the new birth.

It is strange to think of a

tomb as giving birth. A sinless man dies and is buried. His lack of sin allows the tomb, no, forces the tomb to let him go (cf. Acts 2:24). Death had no power over the One that submitted perfectly to the will of God. Easter promises that death has no power over the one who believes in the risen One.

“Happy Birthday Jesus!” sounds amazingly appropriate at the mouth of the empty tomb!

The origins of Easter Sunday



STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Easter takes place on a different Sunday each year. In western Christianity, Easter follows the Gregorian calendar and is thus considered a “movable feast” that is always celebrated between March 22 and April 25. Eastern Orthodox Christianity adheres to the Julian calendar, so Easter will fall on a Sunday between April 4 and May 8 each year. In 2022, the western Christian Easter celebration occurs on April 17 and the Eastern Orthodox Easter is observed on April 24.

Easter is the most important celebration on the Christian liturgical calendar. While commemorations of Jesus Christ’s resurrection likely occurred earlier, the earliest recorded observance of an Easter celebration was in the second century, according to Britannica.

Initial Easter celebrations weren’t known as “Easter,” which is a word that was borrowed from Pagan spring celebrations of Eostre, the goddess of spring and fertility. It only became associated with Christian usage later on - long after Biblical scripture was written. In fact, the word

“Easter” only appears in one Bible, the King James Version. But it is likely the word was used as a translation of pascha, or Passover, and not what has come to be known as Christian Easter.

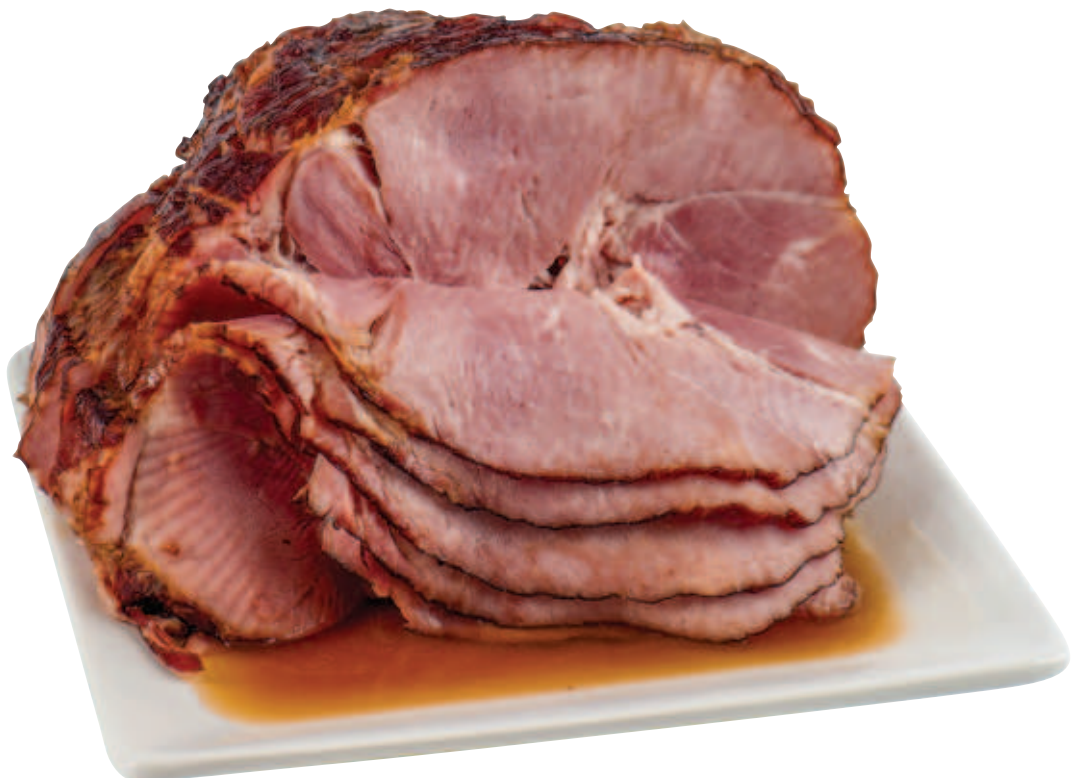
The earliest Easter celebrations were a version of Passover. According to leading sabbath scholar Professor Samuele Bacchiocchi, Christians universally kept Passover on the Biblical date of Nisan until 135 A.D. Early commemorations focused on the crucifixion, and the pain and suffering of Jesus. Bacchiocchi says that eventually the resurrection emerged as the dominant reason for the celebration that would be known as Easter, and also as the main message of weekly Christian Sunday masses. By the fourth century, the Easter Vigil and celebration were well-established and a symbol of joyful anticipation of the resurrection.

Easter is now celebrated annually by faithful Christians. While Easter is not mentioned in the Bible, scripture depictions helped shape the holiday that would become an integral component of the Christian faith.

Ham perfect for holiday entertaining

Ham is a popular entree for an Easter dinner. It can be perfectly smoky and salty, but also sweet when it is cooked with a delicious glaze.

This recipe for “Brandied Baked Ham with Mustard Butter” from Denise Gee’s “Southern Appetizers: 60 Delectables for Gracious Get-Togethers” (Chronicle Books) pairs the fruity overtones of brandy with the tang of mustard to form an ideal blend of flavors. Serve the ham on its own, or nestle slices between buttermilk biscuits for a brunch or lunchtime treat.



STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Brandied Baked Ham with Mustard Butter

SERVES 16 TO 20

BRANDIED BAKED HAM

- 1½ cups packed dark brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons grainy mustard
- 1 5-pound bone-in half ham, fully cooked
- 1½ teaspoons whole cloves

MUSTARD BUTTER

- 2 cups butter, softened
- ¼ cup grated sweet onion
- ¼ cup Dijon or Creole mustard

HAM

In a small saucepan, stir to combine the brown sugar, brandy, and mustard. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium-high heat and, stirring constantly, cook until the glaze is thick and syrupy, about 3 minutes. (Watch carefully, holding a tight-fitting lid; if the brandy ignites, quickly cover the saucepan to tamp out the flame before removing the lid. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to two days. Reheat just before serving.)

Preheat the oven to **325 F°**. Line a shallow roasting pan with heavy-duty aluminum foil and place a wire rack on top.

Score the fat on top of the ham by making diagonal cuts in a diamond pattern. Insert the cloves into the intersections of each diamond. Place the ham on the rack in the prepared pan. Insert a meat thermometer, making sure it doesn’t touch the bone.

Bake the ham for about one hour, or until the thermometer registers 125 F.

Remove the ham and brush on the brandy glaze. Return the ham to the oven and cook for 20 to 30 minutes more, or until the meat thermometer registers 135 F. Let it stand for 15 minutes. (The meat temperature will rise to 140 F.)

MUSTARD BUTTER

In a medium bowl, stir to combine the butter, sweet onion and mustard. Scrape it into a serving bowl. Cut the ham into thin slices and arrange them on a platter. Serve accompanied with the bowl of mustard butter.

What if Easter never happened?

It was still dark on Sunday morning when they left their homes. The neighborhood was eerily quiet as they met on the street and walked, without conversation, to the cemetery on the edge of town.



BE AMAZING

By Gerry Lewis

Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis guides explorers to discover their AMAZING. He is an author, musician, and speaker, and a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at www.discoveryouramazing.com.

Others who were more influential should have joined them, but they were nowhere to be seen. Perhaps from fear, disappointment, or sheer exhaustion they remained in their beds, remembering the words He spoke.

But He said so many things. Were any of His words true?

So on this bleak Sunday morning, the women made their way to the tomb—a

cave dug into the side of a hill—where a wealthy benefactor had placed His body after His execution.

The scuttlebutt going around was that He said He'd be back.

Back.

From death.

Unbelievable.

Yet, here they were hoping against hope.

The rumor of His return—

His resurrection from the dead—had made its way to the halls of power so the tomb was guarded by intimidating soldiers who would chase away any of His followers who might be tempted to perpetuate the myth by stealing His body and claiming He was back.

So as the sun rose they waited in the shadows.

Watching and waiting.

Waiting and watching. Until the sun was high and their dreams melted.

Dejected, they returned to their homes realizing that once again a charismatic-but-deluded rabbi had failed to come through with His promises.

And within a few weeks, the followers of this movement—and the movement itself—faded into oblivion and were never heard from again.

There are no churches.

There are no "Christians."

There are no Easter egg hunts.

There are no people anywhere named "Jesus." And names like "Mary" or "Jo-

seph" or "Gabriel" or "Paul" or "Peter" are rare.

There are no Bibles.

No one thinks of a cross as jewelry or decor.

There is no Christmas.

There are no nativity scenes.

There are no Christmas carols.

There are few hospitals, children's homes, or institutions of higher learning.

These are just a few answers to the question I posed in today's headline: "What if Easter never happened?"

BUT ...

1 Corinthians 15:14-20 says: "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead."

Easter happened. And it changes everything. Praise be to God!

Cheerful dessert brings smiles to Easter celebrations



STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lemon Poppy Seed Pound Cake

YIELD: 16 SERVINGS

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, softened (do not substitute margarine)
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 4 eggs
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Powdered sugar (optional)

1. Preheat oven to **325 F°**. Spray Stoneware Fluted Pan (or any bundt cake pan) with non-stick cooking spray. Combine flour, granulated sugar, lemon zest, poppy seeds, baking powder, and salt in a 2-quart mixing bowl; mix well. In a 4-quart mixing bowl, beat butter and cream cheese on high speed of hand-held electric mixer 1 minute. Add flour mixture; beat on low speed 1 minute or until blended (mixture will form a stiff paste).
2. In a small bowl, whisk eggs, milk and vanilla just until blended. Add egg mixture to cream cheese mixture in four additions, beating 2 minutes after each addition. (Do not under-mix.)
3. Pour batter into pan. Bake 55 to 60 minutes or until a cake tester inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool cake in pan 10 minutes. Loosen cake from sides of pan; carefully invert onto a cooling rack, keeping pan over cake. Cool completely.
4. Place cake on serving platter. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or prepare a glaze, if desired.



Did you know?

Easter eggs are decorated in many hues before they're ultimately hidden for youngsters to find. While pastel-colored eggs are the norm, one color has particular religious significance for those who want to go a bit bolder with their egg displays. It is tradition among Orthodox Christians to exchange red eggs. According to History.com, red eggs are associated with Mary Magdalene and her role in Christianity. After the Ascension of Christ, Mary Magdalene went to the Roman emperor and greeted him with "Christ is Risen." He then stated, "Christ has not risen no more than that egg is red (pointing to an egg on his table)." After making the statement, the egg turned blood red. Mary Magdalene then began preaching Christianity to him, and the red egg has come to symbolize the blood of Christ redeeming the world.

Spring Special

\$1,000

off Material & Installation

*Some restrictions may apply

Offering the most extensive local flooring options!

Tile

Hardwood

Luxury Vinyl

Carpet

Glass Tile

Natural Stone

Quartzite

Granite

FREE ESTIMATES

Texas
Designer
Flooring

500B N. Stewart
Ste.1, Azle

817-752-2065

TexasDesignerFlooring.com

EASTER

w/ DAVE ROEVER

PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT

10am SUNDAY, APRIL 17th

EGG HUNT

IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE

817.221.5433 • 2233 E HWY 199

The Reality of Easter

My maternal grandmother lived out her faith, loving God and others beautifully. Toward the very end of her long life, Grandma Minser welcomed my family as we gathered around her bedside. We expressed our love for her, and she reciprocated. At one point, she earnestly asked me, "David, when I die, will I know what to do?" I was not sure what she meant, and she could tell, so she continued: "Will someone guide me when I get to heaven?" Once I realized what she was asking, I was overwhelmed by the certainty of her faith. She was convinced there would be life after death. I answered her



HOPE MATTERS

By David Shaffer

Dr. David Shaffer and his wife, Daniele, are Azle-area residents. David is director of Son Shine Ministries (equipfamilies.org) and chair of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors (azlechamber.com). david@equipfamilies.org | 817-444-3777

precious question with, "Yes, Grandma. You will be shown whatever you need to know." She smiled and within minutes passed on to be with the Lord.

How can a person have faith like my grandmother? The message of Easter is an ideal place to start.

The Apostle Paul, in an early Christian confession, shared the heart of what is

referred to as the Gospel with the church in Corinth. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV), he wrote, "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...."

No wonder the Gospel is considered Good News.

The sharing of this Good News was the highest priority ("first importance"), and it happened exactly as it had been foretold ("according to the Scriptures"). Christ died for an important purpose ("for our sins").

The Bible tells us that our sins separate us from God and the ultimate penalty for our sins is death, eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23). The Good News is that Christ's death paid the price for our sins. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God the Son taking on flesh (we call this the Incarnation). Born of a virgin, Jesus lived a life without sin and willingly gave up his life

as a substitute for us. That's how much we are loved. We recognize Good Friday as the traditional day on which Jesus was crucified, died and was buried.

What happened next changed everything!

On the third day (what we celebrate as Easter), God bodily resurrected Jesus from the dead! This clearly showed God's power over life and death and that Christ's substitutionary death on our behalf was accepted. Before ascending into heaven 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people, including Mary Magdalene, the disciples and even more

than 500 people at one point (John 20:14-29; 1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

God loves us, and he longs for each of us to recognize the reality of Easter – that Jesus died in our place and that God raised him from the dead. In a simple prayer, I encourage you to join the Apostle Paul and Christians throughout the ages by recognizing the truth of Easter and, if you have not already, accepting Jesus as your Savior.

We can face each day with confidence that our future is assured, and, like my grandmother, we will eventually pass on to be in the presence of God for an incredible eternal life.

Explaining the meaning of Easter to children

Explaining Easter to children can be a delicate matter, especially for very young children who may not fully understand the tenets of the Christian faith. Although Easter ends with Jesus Christ emerging from his tomb, prior to this glorious miracle there are subjects of betrayal, suffering and death. These religious messages can confound when commingled with the imagery of bunnies delivering chocolates, chicks

and pastel-hued eggs. How do well-meaning parents relay the message of Easter without scaring or confusing children?

TEMPER THE MESSAGE TO THE AUDIENCE

A child's age bears consideration when gauging just how much to share about Easter. Between Palm Sunday, when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem, to Easter Sunday's Resurrection, the

story of Easter features torture and death - which are topics not easily digested by anyone, especially children. Even the core symbol of the Christian faith - the crucifix - is shocking.

For the youngest children, the extent of the torture and betrayal can be muted. For example, parents may say that Jesus was bullied and made fun of and that people didn't believe him when he spoke. Parents can note that even some of the closest friends to Jesus had their doubts. This may be easier for kids to digest because it's something they

may relate to.

Children may not understand the death on the cross; it's even challenging for adults to wrap their minds around that visual. It briefly can be mentioned that he was placed on a cross, as was customary during that era, but forgo the finer details.

FOCUS ON THE RESURRECTION

Parents will not want to talk about death without ending on the high note of Jesus' Resurrection. Remind children that Christ's death was temporary and that He now always will be with adults

and children. Read passages from scripture that exemplify the Good News and the happy components of the Easter celebration.

EXPLAIN SECULAR IMAGES

Young children may be more focused on the commercial images of Easter rather than the religious ones. Parents may want to gear symbolism toward the religious explanations and focus their traditions thusly. Baking hot cross buns can be fun and showcase the crucifix. Explain how eggs are representative of Jesus

Christ's new life when coloring them is another way to cut through mixed messages.

READ BOOKS

Some authors already have taken the challenge out of explaining Easter to children. Visit a religious bookseller, the church or a book store to find Easter stories geared to children.

Parents can decide how to explain Easter to their children. Many moms and dads have found that focusing on the joyful aspects of Christ's resurrection story is a simple, enjoyable way to explain Easter.

STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

AT HOME ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS
TODD HUSE 817-304-4224
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL
 All Types of Roofing. • Experts in Metal, Composition & Repairs

- Free Estimates
- Insurance Claims Assistance
- Emergency Storm Repairs
- 24-Hour Assistance
- 3-Year Labor Guarantee
- Local References

WE'LL BE HERE AFTER THE STORM.

A/C & HEAT by Russell

Authorized Dealer:
 • Rheem • Comfortmaker • Amana

SERVICING ALL BRANDS
 SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
 Residential & Commercial
 Major credit cards accepted

Quality At Reasonable Rates

817-270-8811 office
817-239-8710 cell

Russell Reed
 owner
 TACLB017933C

New Location, New Hours

JUSTIN WRANGLER CINCH MISS ME JEANS CORRAL BOOTS

37th Anniversary
AZLE WESTERN WEAR

3221 E. Hwy 199 Wed-Sat 10 AM - 6 PM
 817-444-2855

Next to Boomtown Furniture
 Locally owned and operated

Wrangler

Original **DOUBLE DEAL**
Any 2 Large Original™ Pizzas
\$27.99

This coupon is not valid with any third-party delivery service. Multiple offers/coupons allowed per order. Only one offer/coupon per item. Offer good at participating stores only. Delivery minimum & charge may apply. Customer responsible for all applicable taxes. Expires 5/30/22.

WFZ USE THIS CODE WHEN ORDERING ONLINE

Original™ Sticky Fingers Pizza

Order Online at:

MrJims.Pizza
 It's the Crust!

SPRINGTOWN 417 E. Hwy 199 #7 • 817-523-2255

Chicken EXPRESS

502 E. Hwy. 199
 Springtown
 817-523-0009

Happy Easter!

Family Owned ★ Family Friendly ★ Honest Folks

CLIFF'S GOODYEAR AUTO SERVICE

- Gas and Diesel Certified Service
- Computer Diagnostics
- EZ In & Out Oil Change
- Transmissions
- Clutches
- Shocks & Struts
- Air Conditioning
- Brakes • Alignment

We sell all brands of tires

BFGoodrich, Bridgestone, Capitol, Cooper, Firestone, Fusion, Goodyear, Hankook, Michelin, Uniroyal, Yokohama

Open Mon - Fri 7:30 AM - 6 PM Sat 8 AM - 4 PM
 1088 E. Hwy 199, SPRINGTOWN
 817-220-5959
 302 Palo Pinto, WEATHERFORD
 817-596-0708
 www.CliffsAuto.com

Local Delivery • Metro Delivery • UPS

Sutton PRINTING

119 Industrial Ave. Next to Dollar General
817-444-2222
 418 E Hwy 199 • Springtown
817-220-2101

Digital & Gloss Full Color Business Cards
 Gloss Full • Color Post Cards • Yard Signs
 Full Color Banners • Copy Paper

250 Digital Business Cards
 ONLY **\$25**

GET QUOTES
SuttonPrinting@aol.com

That's love!

BY TIM D. STEVENS

Lead Pastor,
Azle First Assembly

ROMANS 5:6-8 NIV

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Love of God is available at just the right time, now.

Christ came to help us because we couldn't help ourselves.

That's love!

ROMANS 5:9-11 NIV

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast

in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

God made a way for us to come into relationship with Him and know Him before we even made a conscious decision to follow Him. That's love!

JOHN 3:16-17 NIV

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Jesus did not come to condemn you. He came to save you and to ensure that you experience eternal life with Him.

That's real love!

1 JOHN 3:1 NIV

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

God the Father made a way for us to be brought into right relationship with Himself through Jesus Christ His Son.

That is truly his love lavished upon us!

How do we know what love is?

1 JOHN 4:10 NIV

10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 JOHN 3:16A NIV

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

How did God show His love among us?

1 JOHN 4:9 NIV

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

How does Jesus' Love give us hope?

1 PETER 1:3 NIV

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

That is love!

Receive his Love for you. Make a decision to follow Jesus today.

Deviled Eggs

Something to do with your dyed Easter eggs after the egg hunt. Easter eggs should always be gathered within 15 minutes after hiding them and then refrigerated if you intend to turn them into deviled eggs.



- 6 eggs
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Black pepper
- Smoked Paprika

Crack egg shells and carefully peel under cool running water. Gently dry with paper towels. Slice the eggs in half lengthwise, removing yolks to a medium bowl, and placing the whites on a serving platter. Mash the yolks into a fine crumble using a fork. Add mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, salt, and pepper, and mix well.

Evenly disperse heaping teaspoons of the yolk mixture into the egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika.

WINSTEAD

PAINT & BODY

All Insurance Accepted

Mon thru Fri 8:00 am - 5:30 pm Closed Sat & Sun

2309 Hwy. 199 E., Springtown

817-221-3900

J & E Air Conditioning & Heating Inc.

1825 W Highway 199
Springtown, TX 76082

Check us out on:

Licensed & Insured in the State of Texas:
TX Lic.# TACLA01475E

FOR IMMEDIATE SERVICE, CALL:

817-220-4506

EAGLE MOUNTAIN VETERINARY CLINIC

Care for Feline and Canine

HOURS: M-F 8-5:30, Closed for Lunch 12-1:30 • Sat 8-12

Dr. Dustin Fields • 729 Boyd Road • Azle

817-444-3289

Joe Rider PROPANE

Customers who use Joe Rider Propane SAVE an average of \$250/year!

Switch Today and get a FREE \$25 gift card!

SERVING THE AZLE AREA SINCE 1954

FREE SYSTEM CHECK • NO FEES

Call Us At 817-237-3325

White's Funeral Homes

Our family serving your family since 1908

Bob White, Anita White and Zack Bellenger

- Full Service Funeral Home
- Cremation Services
- Pre-Need Plans

Azle • Springtown • Mineral Wells • Weatherford

817-444-3211 • www.whitesfuneral.com

AGNES BAPTIST CHURCH

Loving God • Loving People • Making Disciples

350 Agnes N. Springtown, TX 76082

817-523-7271

Located just 6 miles west of Springtown

Sunday School...10 AM
Morning Worship...11 AM
Wednesday Night...7:00 PM

www.agnesbaptistchurch.com

Howell's Western Cafe

Home Cooked Meals!

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS
10:30 am to 3:00 pm 7 days a week

BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY
Take Out Orders Welcome

Easter Sunday \$10⁹⁵
Baked Ham, English Peas, Sweet Carrots, Sweet Potato Casserole, Strawberry Shortcake

401 Hwy. 199 W. Springtown 817-220-7915

'Because He lives'

BY GARY VEAZY

Lead Pastor for Legacy Church

In 1971 Bill and Gloria Gaither released one of the most popular songs of all time titled "Because He Lives." Out of the over 800 songs produced by the Gaithers, this one song has impacted more Christians and churches worldwide than any other song. What makes a song like this so powerful? It's the story behind the song. Listen to the circumstances which led to the writing of this timeless classic in Gloria's own words.

"I am a wife and a mother. It was in the middle of the upheaval in the 1960s that we were expecting our third baby. The drug culture was in full swing, existential thought had obviously saturated every area of our American thought, the cities were seething with racial tension, and the God-is-dead pronouncement had giggered its way all through our educational system.

"On the personal front, Bill and I were going through one of the most difficult times in our lives. Bill had been discouraged and physically exhausted

by a bout with mononucleosis, and in that weakened condition, had little reserve to fight the psychological battle brought on by some external family problems. Someone whom we had cared about a great deal had hurled some accusations at us and at the Fellowship of Believers and at the whole idea of the existence of God.

"It was on New Year's Eve that I sat alone in the darkness and quiet of our living room, thinking about the world and our country and Bill's discouragement and the family problems - and about our baby yet unborn. Who in their right mind would bring a child into a world like this? I thought. The world is so evil. Influences beyond our control are so strong. What will happen to this child? I can't quite explain what happened at that moment, but suddenly I felt released from it all. The panic that had begun to build inside was gently dispelled by a reassuring presence that engulfed my life and drew my attention.

"Gradually, the fear left, and the joy began to return. I knew I could have that baby and face the future with op-

timism and trust. It was the Resurrection affirming itself in our lives once again. It was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day."

Great songs, like great sermons, flow out of a place of deep struggle and personal experience. God never wastes our struggles. He is never caught off guard by our questions or concerns. He simply uses them as avenues of growing our faith and revealing His glory. Out of Bill and Gloria's season of struggle came these timeless words.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living,

Just because He lives!

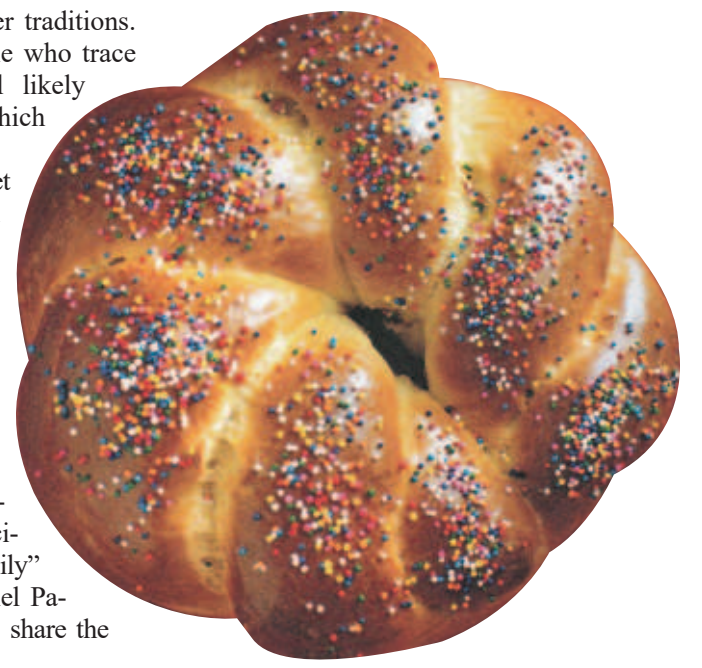
In this season of personal and national uncertainty, may these words bring hope and comfort to all. No matter what you are facing the fact that HE IS RISEN changes everything. As Easter approaches, let the reality of the Resurrection change your perspective. In so doing how would your song go? BECAUSE HE LIVES!

Happy Easter!

Enjoy traditional Easter bread

Families share many Easter traditions. Easter in a home with people who trace their ancestry to Italy will likely feature "Pane di Pasqua," which translates to "Easter Bread."

Easter Bread is a ring of sweet bread that can be adorned with candy sprinkles. Some people nestle colorful hardboiled eggs within the twisted dough as well. Traditionally, Pane di Pasqua is made on Good Friday to help break the Lenten fast for Easter. The following recipe for "Pane di Pasqua" from "Feast of the Seven Fishes: A Brooklyn Italian's Recipes Celebrating Food & Family" (Powerhouse Books) by Daniel Paterna makes enough dough to share the bread with friends and family.



Pane di Pasqua

YIELDS 7 TO 8 LOAVES

DOUGH

- 5 packages of dry yeast (11¼ teaspoons proof yeast in a 4-cup container)
- 5 pounds unbleached all-purpose flour (approximately 17 cups)
- 1 additional pound flour for adding to dough if needed, cleaning hands, and dusting boards and pans
- 3½ cups sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1 pound salted butter, softened, plus a bit more for coating rising dough
- 24 medium to large eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons anisette extract

DECORATING

- 6 ounces rainbow-colored nonpareil
- 3 egg yolks
- 3 tablespoons water

Combine the flour, sugar and salt in a 16-quart pot. Add the butter and mix by hand, squeezing and merging butter with the flour mixture. Add proofed yeast to the flour mixture; continue mixing ingredients. Slowly stir in all the beaten eggs and anisette using a

fork. Continue to mix until ingredients are combined and loose until dough begins to form.

Knead the dough with floured hands for approximately 45 minutes, or until it becomes smooth and elastic. Add flour to the dough if needed, or to scrape the dough off your hands and the bottom of the pot.

Once the dough is fully kneaded, leave it in the pot, lightly spread some butter over the top to keep it moist, and cover with a cloth. Leave at room temperature to rise for eight hours or overnight. The dough is ready when it rises about five times its size.

When the dough has fully risen, punch it down, turn it out onto a floured surface, and form it into a ball. Cut the dough into seven or eight smaller dough balls using a sharp knife. Then cut each ball in half. Roll each half into strands approximately 16-inches long. To form a loaf, lay the strands side by side and cross them over at one end, offset by 3 inches.

Continue crossing one strand over the other while working the braid into a circle. The tie off can be challenging. Join the circle by tucking one end under

the other, pinch the dough firmly together to seal, maintaining the twist and thickness of the loaf. Repeat with the remaining dough.

Butter and flour one 9-inch baking pan for each loaf. Place the braided loaves in individual pans and set aside, covered in a warm, draft-free place to rise for another hour until the dough rises about 30 percent more.

At this point, preheat the oven to **250° F**.

When the dough has risen, place the pans into the oven for about 10 minutes, then raise the temperature to 325 F. Bake until the bread is a dark golden brown and makes a hollow sound when lightly tapped on the bottom.

Prepare the egg wash for decorating. In a small bowl, beat the three egg yolks with three tablespoons of water and set aside.

When the breads are fully baked, remove them from the oven and pan using oven mitts, then decorate immediately. Brush the egg wash onto the hot surface of each loaf and sprinkle with the colored confetti. Set the loaves to cool the racks. Slice a wedge and spread with butter.

STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION



Special Easter Services

Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:40 am

Come Join Us!

First Baptist Church

500 North Main, Springtown

817-220-5229

firstbaptistspringtown.com



SALES & INSTALLATION

Honesty & Quality Are Our Best Reference!
Family Owned & Operated

Wood • Tile • Vinyl Plank • Carpet • Shower
12 Months No Interest Financing Available W.A.C.

2597 W. Hwy 199, Springtown • 817-668-6363

Open Mon.-Fri. 8:30 AM - 5 PM Sat. 9 AM - 2 PM

www.springtownfloors.com • SpringtownFloors@yahoo.com

Dye eggs with all-natural ingredients



Avoid artificial dyes this year and color your eggs with natural ingredients, like beets, cabbage and turmeric.

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition passed down from generation to generation. Easter eggs symbolize rebirth, which fits in well with both religious and seasonal celebrations.

While there are many kits on the market that enable people to easily color eggs, there also are plenty of all-natural foodstuffs, like fruits, vegetables, herbs, and spices, that can get the job done just as effectively. For those who plan to eat the eggs afterward, natural dyes may be preferable to dyes from kits.

Below are a few tried and true methods for producing brilliantly hued eggs with items from the kitchen, courtesy of The Spruce and Martha Stewart.

BEAUTIFUL BLUES

Give chicken eggs a beautiful robin egg shade with red cabbage. Simply shred one cup of red cabbage into a pot. Bring the cabbage and roughly 4 cups water and 1 tablespoon salt to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Let the broth cool. Strain out the cabbage and stir in 2 tablespoons of distilled white vinegar. Let the eggs sit in the dye for the desired duration to achieve light to dark blue eggs.

PERKY PINKS

Use beets to create pink and red eggs. Take 1 or 2 beets and roughly chop them. Combine with 4 cups water



Yellow eggs can be dyed with a common household spice and some tasty carrots.



The secret ingredient to beautiful blue eggs is shredded red cabbage.

and 1 tablespoon of salt in a saucepan. Bring it to a boil, then reduce and simmer for 30 minutes. Strain the mixture and allow to cool. Add 2 tablespoons of vinegar. Use the solution for red and pink eggs.

HAPPY YELLOWS

Cast a sunny glow on eggs with a common household spice and some tasty carrots. Turmeric is touted for its

anti-inflammatory benefits, but it also makes a great dye. Bring 1 tablespoon of turmeric, 3 to 4 sliced carrots, 1 tablespoon salt, and 4 cups of water to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Let cool, strain and stir in 2 tablespoons distilled white vinegar. Use the dye for a lovely yellow shade.

Turn to all natural items for safe and easily dyed Easter eggs.

JOIN US FOR
EASTER
APRIL 17, 2022
FUMC SPRINGTOWN

JIM STEVENS
PHOTOGRAPHY
PROFESSIONAL EXECUTIVE PORTRAITS
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY • FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY
713-725-5620

Happy Easter!
HE WANTS YOUR MONEY
'WE'VE GOT YOUR SIX'
Protect your nest egg!
Tactical Taxes Etc.
510 W Main St, Ste. A, Azle
817-744-0519

The LUBE CENTER
Our Customer Service Makes the Difference.
THE OFFICIAL LUBE CENTER OF THE FIGHTING PORCUPINES
324 Hwy. 199 E., Springtown • 817-523-3151
• 10 Minute Oil Change
• State Inspection
• Fuel Injection Service
• Diesel Oil & Oil Filters
• All Brands of Oil Available
• Experienced Lube Technicians
10th Oil Change FREE!
Open Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm Sat - 8am - 2pm Sun - Closed

• Wood Floors
• Ceramic Tile
WAREHOUSE FULL of ROLLS and REMNANTS
for every room in your home! Quality, large selection, and great prices ... are still found at ...
Larry's CARPET
SHOWROOM & WAREHOUSE
www.LarrysCarpet.com
8305 Jacksboro Hwy. • 817-237-7871
"Since 1979"
VISA MasterCard