

## RESURRECTION OR DEATH? GETHSEMANE'S INVITATION

The invitation in prayer transforms the human view of death to the divine view of resurrection.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Resurrection Sunday is when the Church celebrates Jesus' victory over death and the grave. But resurrection does not begin with victory. It begins with surrender. This is reflected in the prayer Jesus taught His disciples: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).
- ❖ These words are not just a statement—they are an invitation. They call us to lay down our will and trust God's.
- ❖ Gethsemane shows us what that invitation looks like. In the garden, Jesus faced the reality of the cross. What appeared to be death from a human perspective would become resurrection from a divine one.
- ❖ His prayer reveals how surrender transforms the way we see even the most difficult moments of life.

### Human nature invites others to join with us for our benefit.

- ❖ Jesus begins His prayer in Matthew 26 with the words, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will" (v. 39).
- ❖ Here we see His humanity. Jesus understood the suffering ahead—not only physical death, but also bearing the weight of sin. In that moment, He asked if there was another way.
- ❖ He also invited His disciples to pray with Him. Yet when He returned, He found them sleeping (v. 40). In His moment of need, they could not support Him.
- ❖ Still, Jesus told them, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (v. 41). What seemed like a request for His benefit was also for theirs. Prayer would prepare them for what was coming.
- ❖ This reflects a common human instinct. We invite others into our struggles for support, yet we often want relief without walking through the process God uses to grow and prepare us for what's ahead.
- ❖ While human nature seeks relief, Gethsemane reveals a deeper invitation.

### Divine nature invites others to join with us for their benefit.

- ❖ Jesus returns to prayer and says, "If it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done" (v. 42).
- ❖ Something shifts. His prayer moves from possibility to submission. Instead of asking for another option, He accepts the Father's will.
- ❖ When He returns again, the disciples are still sleeping (v. 43). Their weakness remains, but Jesus no longer presses them. He leaves them to rest and returns to prayer a third time, confirming His surrender (v. 44).
- ❖ At this point, Jesus is no longer operating from a human perspective. Through prayer, He has aligned Himself with the divine will.

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** Matthew 26:39-44;  
Revelation 22:20 (*all Scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted*)

- ❖ This shows us that God's invitation is not only about our comfort, but about purpose. What feels like loss from a human perspective may be part of something eternal.
- ❖ In the moment, human reasoning may suggest that suffering outweighs purpose. But over time, the evidence reveals otherwise.
- ❖ What looks like defeat can become the foundation of something greater. Gethsemane is not just a moment of struggle—it is a promise.

### Jesus invites us to a transformed view from death to resurrection.

- ❖ Jesus' surrender in Gethsemane led to the cross. From a human perspective, it was death. From God's perspective, it was the pathway to resurrection.
- ❖ Later, the risen Christ declares, "Yes, I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). This is an invitation—one that flows from the victory He secured.
- ❖ The gospel message is rooted in this transformation. Humanity was separated from God by sin, and no human effort could restore that relationship. So, God came Himself, in Jesus Christ, to overcome sin and death.
- ❖ What looked like the end became a beginning. The cross opened the way to life.
- ❖ Our response is to accept that invitation. We turn from our own way and choose His. Through repentance, baptism, and receiving His Spirit, we enter into new life.
- ❖ Just as Jesus' perspective shifted in prayer, our view can also be transformed. What we see as an ending, God may be using as a beginning.
- ❖ The invitation in prayer changes how we see everything. It moves us from a human view of death to a divine view of resurrection.
- ❖ In Gethsemane, Jesus showed that surrender is not defeat—it is the doorway to life.
- ❖ And through Him, that same invitation is extended to us.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Jesus' prayer shifts from "if it is possible" to "your will be done" (Matt. 26:39, 42). What does this change reveal about growth in prayer and trust in God, especially when His will is difficult to accept?
2. Based on Jesus' repeated prayers at Gethsemane (Matt. 26:39-44), what role does persistence in prayer play in aligning our will with God's, and how can this shape the way we respond in challenging situations?







### PRAYER TIME

Lord, help us surrender our will to Yours and trust You even when the path is difficult.  
Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)
-  (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Start-up: What's your first reaction when things don't go your way? What helps you push through?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

**PRAYER FOCUS: Canadian political leaders: municipal, provincial, federal.**

**24-hour Prayer:** Daily;

**Daily Devotions:** Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

**Departmental Prayer:** Every Thursday (please check schedule)

**Corporate Prayer:** Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

**Zoom ID:** 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

#### **FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS**

To donate online, please go to [www.faithsanctuary.com/give](http://www.faithsanctuary.com/give)

For email transfers, please use [donate@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:donate@faithsanctuary.com)



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **24/7 PRAYER INFORMATION/FEEDBACK MEETING**

Date: Sunday, April 12th, 2026

Location/Time: Upper Chapel @ 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

This meeting will be for everyone involved in

24-hour prayer. Bring any feedback and/or questions.

Training will also be available for those who need it. Please

don't forget to bring the device you'll

use for hosting/co-hosting on the Faith Sanctuary

Zoom prayer line (e.g., laptop, phone, etc.).

Contact: Bro. Mike Allen

#### **COUPLES' PRAYER BRUNCH**

Couples are warmly invited to join us for a sweet time of fellowship, connection, and prayer.

Date: Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Location/Time: Upper Chapel @ 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Registration deadline is Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

To register, couples can add their names to the sign-up sheet available at the Guest Services desk. For further

information, contact Bro. Bob and Sis. Kim at

[stayconnectedmsg@gmail.com](mailto:stayconnectedmsg@gmail.com).



#### **FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.**

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

**Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.**

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

**Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.**

(In person and via Zoom)

**Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.**

(In person and via Zoom)

**Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled**  
(see ushers for information)

## **FAITH FOUNDATIONS**

### **GOD**

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

### **GOD'S WORD**

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

### **GOD'S CREATION**

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

### **HUMANITY'S FALL**

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

### **THE GOSPEL**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

### **OUR FAITH RESPONSE**

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

### **CHRIST'S RETURN**

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

**APRIL 5, 2026**

# **Faith** **SANCTUARY**

**Feed Canada to Feed the World**

*Reaching the World Through Prayer*

~ 2026 ~

**Pastor:**  
**Rev. Adrian W. Peel**

*"...My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."*

*Matthew 26:42 (NIV)*

1901 Jane St., Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9

Phone: 416-244-4898

Email: [mail@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:mail@faithsanctuary.com)

Website: [www.faithsanctuary.com](http://www.faithsanctuary.com)

Livestream: <https://faithsanctuarytoronto.online.church>