

# The Canton Christian

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*April 2026*

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LOVE  
THY  
NEIGHBOR

## Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

*By Michael Grigsby*

Everyone who has heard about Jesus can agree on one thing: His death was by crucifixion on a cross. When Jesus Christ of Nazareth was in His early or mid-30s, He was arrested and killed. Many people have the question: Why would God have His Son die a brutal death? *John 3:16, "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." NIV.*

If God loved His Son as much as He claimed, why did Jesus have to die by crucifixion? There are three main points to understand in order to properly answer this question. His bloodshed, atonement, and eternal life.

### The Crucifixion

Jewish religious leaders sought to crucify Jesus because He threatened their political and religious authority. They tried him for blasphemy and for "challenging" the politics. After His arrest, Jesus carried His cross from the site of His trial to the site of His crucifixion. Upon arrival, He was nailed to the cross with a sign that read: "*This is Jesus, king of the jews*" and breathed His last breath after a brutal death.

### Who Killed Jesus?

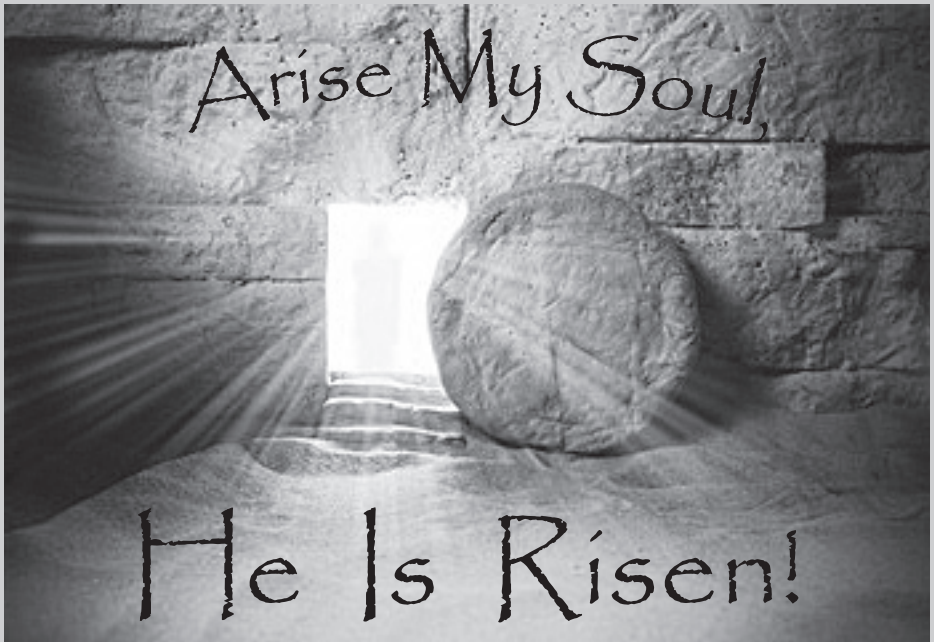
Pontius Pilate, governor of Judaea, presided over the trial of Jesus. However, he was reluctant because he found no real charges against Jesus, but felt pressure from the citizens and the other political leaders, and ultimately approved the crucifixion. The Roman soldiers crucified Jesus while they mocked Him.

### The Resurrection

Three days after His death, His tomb was empty. An angel appeared to the ones visiting His tomb, and soon after, Jesus Himself appeared. He was on earth for 40 days, visiting His disciples and over 500 people, commanding them to make disciples of all the nations.

Atonement

*Continued to page 6*



*Presented by the Canton Christian Church Choir*  
Saturday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m.

### *A Celebration of Praise*






The choir will be presenting *Arise My Soul, He is Risen*, a new Easter musical by Russell Mauldin, on Saturday, April 4th, 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 12th, 10:30 a.m.

The powerful music and moving lyrics portray Christ's

- All-sufficient sacrifice
- All leading to the glorious resurrection
- All because He loved us
- All inspiring
- All compelling us to give Him all the glory!

Thank you Jesus

# April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Tracey Dickey Morgan Marks Sherry Walters <b>Roger &amp; Trudy Gibson</b>	2 Charles Waldo	3 Sherri McDonald Dawanna Haigler	4 TIm Chaloupek Damon Long Jamie Holsapple Clayton Webb  <i>Easter Cantata - 7 p.m.</i>
5 Zoey Cantellay Garrett Stephens  	6 Trudy Gibson Shelby Schiska	7	8	9 Charlie Gilchrist	10 Wilma Hart	11 Gene Cook Ruth Stephens Chris Woods Dean Cavett <b>Larry &amp; Cathy Byers</b>
12 Jeff Hoskins  <i>Easter Cantata</i> 10:30 a.m. 	13	14 Linda Pollock	15 Jaycee Taylor	16 Brianna Palacios Brendan Lang Lane Heath	17	18 Ronnie Price <b>Darren &amp; Amanda Cavett</b> <b>Johnny &amp; Rhonda Hoskins</b>
19 Joyce Dowling Jeremy Gonzalez	20	21	22 Myron Seifried	23	24 Penny Heath <b>Marty &amp; Beth Seifried</b>	25
26	27 Sandra Cavett Jennifer Lang	28 Kenzie Meier Dean Price Sharon Mullin	29	30 Susan Edsall		
		<b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b> Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. 	<i>Beth Seifried - April</i> <i>Bella Grace - May</i> <i>Deanna Barker - June</i>	 <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	NOTE: Please notify us if a name needs to be removed or added. <b>Contact Toni Goforth at:</b> tonigo4th@hotmail.com or you may text or call 580-822-5109.	

# Prayer is the Way

Steve Driskill  
Amy Warner  
Kaylynn Philpot  
Melvin Warner  
Dwight Lunsford  
Bob Ogle  
Steve Bond  
Barbara Mason  
Shirley Moore  
Ron Waltman  
Donnita Murray  
Greg Hargrove  
Gayle Roberts  
Nicole Nelson White  
Becky Gonzalez  
Colton Cottrill  
Tim Chaloupek  
Tim Kirk  
Vicki Reavis

Pete Petree  
Emma Burich  
Levi Hunt  
Wes Robinson  
Cheryl Flynn  
Tristan Hladik  
Gary McKee  
Arta Waltman  
Kraig Birchfield  
Tammy Long Qualls  
Brian Wilson  
Kayla Sutton  
Raymond Barnes  
Jeff Thompson  
MaryAnn Phillips  
Blake Boulard  
Nicole Bowman  
Jason Smith  
Ashley Crews

Jim Rose  
Connie Johnson  
David Lupo  
Connie Woods  
Steve Reist  
Josephine Gonzalez  
Dave Schwind  
Dean Cavett  
Tim Long  
James Shepherd  
Regina Ray  
Larry Stephens  
Josh Blevins

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*Family of Earlene (Nelson) Britain  
Family of Jodi & Lexi Owens  
Family of Sharon Gundlach*

*Note: To call out a prayer need during the week, contact Laberta at 580-886-5225.*

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## RESURRECTION MORNING SONRISE SERVICE

There will be a Sonrise Service on **Sunday, April 5th at 7:00 a.m.** to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. All are invited to join us at this special time of celebration. The Sonrise Service will be followed by a potluck breakfast, so bring your favorite breakfast item. Sunday School will follow at 9:30 a.m. and church services at 10:30 a.m.

## CAMP SOONER GOLF TOURNAMENT COMING IN APRIL



**FOR THOSE OF YOU INTERESTED  
IN ENTERING THE  
CAMP SOONER GOLF TOURNAMENT  
PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR MIKE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION. THE EVENT WILL  
HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 20TH**

Remember Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead . . . This is the Good News I preach.

[2 Timothy 2:8]

## Remember Jesus

Paul was in prison in Rome and knew his execution was near. In a letter written within earshot of the sharpening of the blade that would sever his head, Paul urged Timothy to remember. You can almost picture the old warrior smiling as he wrote the words. "Remember Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead . . . This is the Good News I preach" (2 Timothy 2:8).

When times get hard, remember Jesus. When people don't listen, remember Jesus. When tears come, remember Jesus. When disappointment is your partner, remember Jesus.

Remember the sick who were healed with his callused hands. Remember the dead called from the grave with a Galilean accent. Remember the eyes of God that wept human tears. Remember Jesus, the reason a prisoner could talk about Good News just before his execution—and the reason we can talk about Good News no matter what crisis we face.

## ONE MORE THOUGHT

When bad news or bad times hit, our minds typically turn to mush. Memories go missing along with everything else. If you can remember one thing during your worst moment, let it be this: the Good News that Jesus Christ went to the cross for you.

—Max Lucado

# Easter Blessings

*Continued from page 1,*

## Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

Atonement is the reparation for a wrongdoing. Christ was an atonement for sin because He was the ultimate sacrifice. According to scripture, the price of sin is death. In the Old Testament, God's law was that animal blood atoned for their sins and made them right with God again. Because Jesus was perfect, He was a perfect sacrifice. He was "unblemished to God." This means no other sacrifice was needed. Jesus fulfilled it all. He shed His blood and died in our place. If Jesus were not human, His sacrifice would have no meaning for us. Sin began through humans, and ended through humans. His sinless nature, plus His humanity, made Him perfect. A perfect sacrifice was the ultimate atonement.

### What Does It Mean for Us?

God sending Jesus was proof that He

loves us and He is merciful to us. How can we not worship Him? The birth and death of Jesus should transform the way we live because it reconciles us with God, giving us the opportunity to have a personal relationship with Him. Jesus' sacrifice frees humanity from the bondage of sin and gives us hope in an eternity with God in heaven. Jesus had to die to reconcile humanity to its creator. We no longer have to sacrifice to be right with God; Jesus' blood and death were the price paid in our place. He demonstrated His love for us by taking the punishment for our sins — even as a perfect, undeserving person. His crucifixion is proof that He loves us so much that He came down and humbled Himself to humans so that He could die in our place.