



GREEN PARK FREE CHURCH

CNI, Diocese of Delhi,
A-24 Green Park, New Delhi-110016



Second Sunday before Easter (Lent 5)
The meaning of the death of Christ.
29th March 2020

Presbyter-in-Charge	Associate Presbyter	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer
Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup 9811397771	Rev. Vishal R. Paul 9313912594, 8700784065	Mr. Dennis Singh 9811269792, 8700319032	Mrs. Kiran Mohan 9811477154

Regular Sunday Service
Hindi: 8:30 a.m., English: 10:30 a.m., Evening Worship: 5:30 p.m.
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PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONES WHILE IN THE CHURCH

Pastor writes

We live in a time of severe trials. The entire nation has been in lockdown over the past one week and we have another two weeks to go at least for the present. The Corona virus is unleashing its deadly sting on all of humanity. Thousands have died in Italy, China, Spain, USA. Many other countries are reeling under this attack as the enormity of the infection has put the medical services under severe stress. We in India are just now in stage 3 and the infection is slowly but surely spreading. The Government is making every effort to slow down its spread if not to contain it. There is a deep sense of fear and insecurity about what the future holds. This virus brings home the truth about the mortality of human beings. We flourish like the flowers of the field and then we are no more. It is in this context that we are called to make sense of the death of Christ and what it means for us. The death of Christ actually gives meaning to our lives.

Our theme for this morning is the Meaning of the Death of Christ.' What does the death of Christ mean to us? What does it indicate? What sense can we make out of a man who was crucified two thousand years ago? Does his death alter our lives in any way? – are all questions that run through our mind when we think about the death of Christ. What does the bible have to tell us about the death of Christ? In the letter to the Romans, Paul shows that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But he goes on to say, *'they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith'* (Rom 3:23-24). Paul shows that through the death of Christ there is redemption available to all who believe in this provision. God put forward Jesus to die for our sins so that we can make peace with God. We will be looking at the second epistle of Paul to the Corinthians chapter 5:11-21.

The death of Christ makes Paul persuade others to believe in the good news. Paul is not worried about what others think of him. He has experienced the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life in Christ. His life has been turned inside out from being persecutor to being one who proclaims the faith. Therefore, now he out to persuade others to believe in Christ. He is not concerned about what others think of him. They may consider him to be a madman but he says that will not alter his way of life because his conscience was clear and was doing out of love for God and for his people. Similarly, the challenge for us is also to persuade others to understand the meaning of the death of Christ. How there is the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life through him.

Secondly, the compelling love of Christ shown to us through his death on the cross makes us live our lives for him. Paul is now telling the Corinthians that Jesus died in their place taking the penalty of their sins. Paul reminds us that the wages of sin is death and that we all had to die because of our sins. But instead Christ took our place on the cross so that we might live. Therefore, when we live our lives we are to live it for Jesus.

Finally, the death of Christ reminds us that the new creation has come. We are all made new through the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The new creation itself is not something of our own doing but it is a gift from God. If we are a new creation in Christ then we will be different. We will not be like the world. We will walk in the paths of truth. Truth and integrity will be part of our lives. Lies and deceit will have to go. The old habits have to go. The self has to die. Power and Pride, Popularity and success, wealth and greed all have to go. Instead we are called to lead lives of humility, integrity and simplicity because we cannot serve God and mammon. May God help us to understand the meaning of the death of Jesus and pass on this good news to others while we ourselves are being transformed by it.

Shalom
Paul Swarup

Order of Service**Call to Worship**

Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (**John 12: 23-24**)

Leader	Paul Swarup	
Opening Hymn	GP 104	Immortal, invisible, God only wise
Adoration	Section 3 to 5	Vishal Paul
1st Reading	Isaiah 50:4-10	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 89:19-22, 34-39, 49-50	
2nd Reading	2 Cor. 5:11-19	
Hymn	GP 249	On calvr'y's brow my Saviour
Gospel	John 11:45-53	Vishal Paul
Sermon		
Nicene Creed	Section 14	All
Notices		Paul Swarup
Intercession	Section 16	
Confession of Sin	Section 17 to 19	Vishal Paul
Absolution & Peace	Section 20 & 22	Paul Swarup
Offertory Hymn	GP 177	When I survey the wondrous Prayer for those who celebrate their Birthdays & Anniversaries this week
Prayer and Benediction	Section 45	Paul Swarup
Closing Hymn	GP 68	And can it be that I should gain

Collect

Almighty God, whose dear Son freely offered his life that he might bring back your children who were scattered abroad; grant that we, being reconciled to you and to each other, may ever live as one family in the peace and unity of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. **Amen.**

Please pray for our church family members who are in need of your prayer support:

Ms. Sanjivani Agarwal, Master Isaiah, Mr. Eugene Samuel, Mrs Sujaya Kingston, Rev. G H Grose, Mrs. Hilda Immanuel, Ms. Shiela Choudhary, Mr. Dalip Kumar Ghosh, Mrs. E. S. Ruskin, Mr. Neelu Joseph, Ms. Mellisa Dass, Mrs. Virginia Sen, Mr. Suresh Kukde, Mrs. Jyotika Suraj, Master Arnav Vyas, Mrs. Savitri, Mrs. Cynthia Nathaniel, Mr. Samuel Robert, Mr. Senthil Kumar, Mr. Raphael Satyavrata, Mr. Emmanuel Soren and Mrs. Sheela Singh. Pray for the relief from the corona virus around the globe.

Psalm 89:19-22, 34-39, 49-50

Response : Lord, where are thy old loving-kindnesses?

Thou spakest sometime in a vision unto thy servants and saidst: " I have set the crown upon one that is mighty; a chosen one have made higher than all the people.

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand shall hold him fast, and my arm shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not be able to press him sore, the son of wickedness shall not hurt him."

Response : Lord, where are thy old loving-kindnesses?

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips;

Once for all have I sworn by my holiness, that I will not fail David.

His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne shall be like as the sun before me.

It shall stand fast for evermore as the moon, and shall be firm as long as the heavens endure.

Response : Lord, where are thy old loving-kindnesses?

But thou hast cast off and rejected thine anointed king, and hast poured out thy wrathful indignation against him.

Thou hast broken the covenant of thy servant; thou hast defiled his crown and cast it to the ground.

Lord, where are thy old loving-kindnesses, which thou swarest unto David in thy faithfulness?

Remember, Lord, how thy servants are reproached, and how I do bear in my bosom the insults of the peoples.

Response : Lord, where are thy old loving-kindnesses?

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

NOTICES

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