

*A Time For Preparation – Pastor’s Corner March 2022*

*Basketball Legend John Wooden once said “Failing to prepare, is preparing to fail”.*

*I trust that a pilot prepares by going over a checklist before each flight that he makes. I cringe to think what the Carolina Band would sound like if they just showed up at competition without practicing.*

*There are so many things in life that we spend our time preparing for. We spend a lot of time preparing for Christmas! We decorate; we send cards; we bake; we wrap presents; we put on pageants and programs; set up nativity scenes; have parties; take vacations; visit relatives... I wonder why we prepare so much for Christmas (for the birth) and **prepare so little for Easter (the death and resurrection).***

*We begin preparing on Ash Wednesday and go through Lent as a time of preparation by fasting, repentance, and forgiveness. We should as Christians be preparing because if it wasn’t for Christ’s death and resurrection then salvation for eternal life wouldn’t be conquered.*

*In Matthew 26, the disciples were asked to “prepare” for the Passover meal. They ask, “Where do you want us to prepare the meal?” And Jesus instructs them, and they go to “prepare” for the Passover meal. John the Baptist declared **“Make ready (prepare) the way of the Lord, make His paths straight”** (Mat 3:3) Paul wrote to the Corinthians **“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of that cup”**. (1 Cor 11:28)*

*Preparation then involves “self-examination”. An examination of conscience; a time of prayer; repentance and forgiveness. There are always jokes about the second coming of Christ, such as the bumper sticker that read “Jesus is coming, look busy”. But we should be well prepared before He comes! It is not “manana”. Not something we can put off until tomorrow.*

*Easter is a glorious time there’s no doubt, but we must prepare for Christ’s brutal death and resurrection by taking a hard look at ourselves. Ask yourself: Are you preparing for Easter like Christmas? Is it more about breaking out the new clothes or remembering the grave clothes left in the empty tomb? We are preparing for something big and that is Christ defeating death for the forgiveness of sins for humankind.*

*+Pastor Ben*