

# DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J

April 2017

## Simon of Cyrene

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. Mark 15:21

One afternoon you're wandering  
—lost among strange streets—  
when a cross lands on your shoulders.  
You're a broad-shouldered plowman  
in from the fields for a week  
and soldiers with spears  
say you're up to the task.  
The sun shines only on you  
but you wish you'd stayed at home.  
When you've climbed the hill  
where they'll plant the cross  
they strip it from you  
seed it with nails  
and water it with a man.  
You straighten your spine  
to join the crowd  
but all that light still shines on you.  
The stem falls into the hole  
and a man cries out.  
Thunder sighs. Then it rains.  
There are conversations on every hand  
but you hear the one between two crosses:  
Remember Me!  
In paradise!

One afternoon you're wandering  
—lost among strange streets—  
but the next thing you know  
you're in the right place.

Copyright© 1998 by Nathan Harms  
(used with the permission of the author)



### QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

**“Faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart.”**  
— Abraham Joshua Heschel

## In This Issue

- Simon of Cyrene
- The Other Mary
- From Our Minister: A Mysterious Side to the Gospel that Surprises
- Pictures from Palm/Passion Sunday

## News from WCRC

The World Communion of Reformed Churches' next General Council, bringing together hundreds of delegates to discern God's will through Scripture to set the WCRC's direction and elect new leadership, will be held in Leipzig, Germany, 29 June to 7 July 2017.

The Council's theme — Living God, Renew and Transform Us — not only reflects the WCRC's heritage but centres the Council around the God of Life and challenges participants to renew themselves and the church so that the world can be transformed.

"This theme is reflected as a prayer to God who lives and reigns in the world to make us more like Jesus," says Jerry Pillay, WCRC president. "It is a prayer that God will make us to be what God wants and wills for us to be, and that God will use us to change the world so that it may reflect God's reign and presence bringing justice, peace, love and abundance of life to all."

The WCRC has brought together outstanding theological thinkers, teachers and leaders to help all member churches and congregations enter deeply into the work of the Council by engaging its theme. The result is *Prayerful Preparation*, a booklet containing Bible studies; theological, confessional and contextual essays; and worship resources.

"The point of this critical reflection is to move forward in faith and in response to the God of Life," says Chris Ferguson, WCRC general secretary, in the booklet's preface.

"The Reformation commemorations are for us not about theological nostalgia. They are about putting the Reformation into the present tense," Ferguson continues. "This means not just the here and now; it means bringing Reformed traditions, theology and the confessing faith stance into the tense present—into the tensions, conflicts, violence, suffering, beauty, wonder and promise of this historical moment."

The electronic version of the Study Guide (Living God – Renew and Transform Us) can be downloaded at

<http://wcrch.ch/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/GC2017-PrayerfulPreparation-English.pdf> .

## The Other Mary

*In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. Matthew 28:1*

In the cages of the temple at Jerusalem  
where doves are sold  
in perfect white pairs  
she is gray.

All her life is like that  
nothing.

Men speak in the market stalls  
of rain on a distant mountain  
and just like that  
she's forgotten.

She is a kernel of wheat  
that curls into itself  
and grows inward  
till no one comes to her for bread.

She can't thrill with the ways she has  
fallen

for she's never more than stumbled.  
Her sins are undistinguished.

The garden of the sepulchre  
is not her plan on an ordinary morning  
But the earth has been shaken  
where she stands

the broken sky come down in the dawn  
to kiss a savior to life.

She wonders about a sleeping beauty  
kiss like that, a frog prince of a savior kiss  
No lips have brushed her dirt-floor days

The angel glows like a spectre  
his wounds already healing.

He reaches up with one hand  
pulls the dawn down to her lips  
and she loves to be the other Mary.

Copyright© 1998 by Nathan Harms  
(used with the permission of the author)

## FROM OUR MINISTER

### **A mysterious side to a gospel that surprises**

Being in the midst of the Easter season, celebrating Jesus' last journey from Palm Sunday to his crucifixion in Jerusalem on Good Friday, to rising from the dead on Easter Sunday, we might find ourselves pondering over what all of this means.

Easter also ties into the Hebrew tradition of Passover, which is mainly about God miraculously saving the Jews from certain death while they were fleeing from oppression and bondage in Egypt, and then heading into a new life in the Promised Land in what would be Israel, their homeland.

These two angles point us toward the new life that Jesus indeed made possible. The "new life" could have many meanings. It could mean freedom from oppression, freedom from addictions, a place where we could live with less guilt, or an "eternal life in paradise", as Jesus promised the one criminal being crucified beside Him on Golgotha.

We could be very literal about the meaning of the Resurrection, or we could downplay it as impossible. Wherever we are on the spectrum of such two extremes, I tend to see how explanations don't serve us well. Acknowledging the mystery that lies in what Jesus did, gives us insight into the multiple applications in our lives here on earth. What we do know, is that Jesus suffered for us, so that we as humans can have part in the new life that Jesus brings to the world.

Let us take hope from the wonder that is portrayed in the song "In the bulb there is a flower" by Natalie Sleeth, (Hymn #674 in the *Book of Praise*),

"In the bulb there a flower,  
in the seed, an apple tree,  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see."

Happy Easter, and take heart, be hopeful, in a world that has so many grim sides to it.



*Aleinich*

## PALM/PASSION SUNDAY AT DAYSRING



## Contact Us

Dayspring Presbyterian Church  
 11445-40 Ave  
 Edmonton, AB, CAN, T5J0R4  
 Admin@DayspringChurch.ca  
 780-435-3111  
 Visit us on the web at  
[www.DayspringChurch.ca](http://www.DayspringChurch.ca)

DayBook Editors  
 Marilyn & John Carr  
 DayBook@DayspringChurch.ca

## SESSION

**Moderator:** Heinrich Grosskopf

**Session Clerk:** Darlene Eerkes

**Deputy Clerk:** Iris Routledge

**Roll Clerk:** Jim Jeatt

### Other Elders

Bill Davis	Walters Munde
Jane de Caen	Nick Nation
John Carr	Stanley Ngwa
Ingrid Dukhedin-Lalla	Laura Patterson-
Peter Eerkes	Fortin
Carina Grosskopf	Todd Shipman
Sam Jaikaran	Darleen Springstein
Gina Kottke	Heather Tansem

## MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

## CHURCH STAFF

**Church School Coordinator:** Lynn  
 Vaughan

**Youth Coordinator:** Shane Johnson

### Worship Arts Coordinator

Gordon McCrostie, B.Mus., M.T.S.

**Pianist:** Binaifer (Binu) Kapadia, B.Mus.

### Alternate Pianist

Darolyn McCrostie, B.Mus., P.D.A.D.  
 (Education)

**Administrative Assistant:** Linda

**Custodians:** Lindsey & Jim Matthew