

Focus on Faith

WE CAN'T HOLD BACK THE DAWN

The light of that first Easter morning revealed that Jesus' tomb was now empty. It was this sudden dramatic knowledge that transformed the first disciples. The crucifixion had dashed their hopes. Disaster and death had claimed the One they had been following for three exciting years.

But then came the empty tomb and it all took on new meaning. From there they went throughout the world to flash the news: "Jesus is alive!"

Was their message true? The evidence is overwhelming. Firstly, he was seen by many persons after his resurrection (see: John 20; I Corinthians 15:5-7).

There was a dramatic change in the lives of the disciples. From sniveling cowards they became bold, courageous advocates of the Gospel, even though they were martyred for

their faith - and people don't usually give up their lives for a known lie.

Then there was the revolutionary change in the life of the apostle Paul (I Cor.15:8-10; Acts 9). And this resurrection message has transformed lives ever since.

In addition to these evidences we must add the fact of prophecy. Jesus' resurrection was predicted hundreds of years before by statement and picture in the Old Testament, for example: Psalm 16:10, 110; Job 19:25; Isaiah 53:10-12; John 2:19-21, Matthew 12:40.

The French philosopher Auguste Comte once told Thomas Carlyle that he was going to start a new religion to replace Christianity. "Very good," replied Carlyle. "All you have to do is to be crucified, die, rise again the third day and get the world to believe that you are still alive."

By his resurrection Jesus proved that what he said was true, what he did was efficacious and that the salvation he offers is real.

Apart from Easter, the story of Jesus would be but the story of a good man who died - a misguided visionary. Instead, Easter proclaims there is life beyond death, and through faith in this living Saviour, "Because he lives, we too shall live" (see: John 14:19; 3:16 and Acts 4:12).

No wonder we celebrate the dawning of Easter each year. It is the basis for our hope both in time and for eternity ahead.

- submitted by Paul Fawcett

EASTER SUNDAY IS A DAY FOR JOYFUL WORSHIP

A number of Markham churches are conducting a "Resurrection Celebration at Centre Court" in Markville Mall from 8 - 9 a.m. Sunday morning. The Salvation army band will lead in familiar Easter music. Local pastors will share brief meditations on the meaning of the empty tomb. Entrance to the mall is by the south-centre, Highway 7 doors. Seating is limited, lawn chairs are suggested.

Markham Baptist Church is bringing church to you with a 9 a.m. gathering in the Community Room of the Royal Bank at 122 Cornell Park Avenue. This 45-minute service will feature lively Easter music led by Howard Attewell on keyboard. Teens and adults attending will receive a copy of "The Message of Hope" a selection of inspirational passages from Scripture. Children will receive an Easter booklet. Coffee, hot cross buns and muffins will be available at 8:45 am for those who come early.

Please consult the notices below for times and locations of other Easter worship services. You can expect to find a warm welcome at the church of your choice.



Easter at St. Andrew's
Sunday, April 23rd

7:00 a.m. Sun Rise Worship in Milne Park conducted by our Youth Fellowship Groups
11:00 a.m. Resurrection Celebration Worship
Sermon: "Seeing is Believing, and Beyond"
Anthems: "This Is The Day of Rejoicing" - A. Pote
"Hallelujah Chorus" - G.F. Handel


St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 143 Main Street, Markham, 294-4736
Everyone is welcome to join us



MARKHAM PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
5440 16TH AVENUE, MARKHAM
Telephone (905) 294-6716

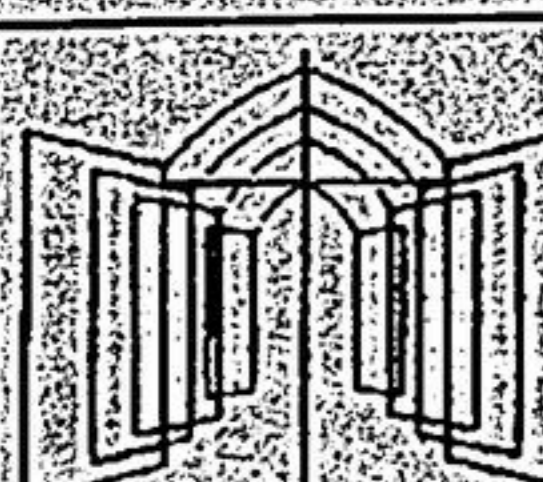
A Special Easter Celebration!
You are welcome to join us for some great music, and an inspirational and practical Easter message. Come and celebrate with us!
Service Time: 10:30 a.m.

Central United Church
131 Main St. Unionville ~ 474-0183
www.unitedchurch.com
EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 23
8:00 a.m. Community Service at Markville Mall
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Services
A Warm Welcome Awaits You

The Lion's Den
Christian Book Shoppe
Serving Your Family and Church
115 Main St., North Markham Village
Tel: (905) 472-8412
Diana Whitehead

Easter Blessings to All



St. Philip's on-the-hill
Anglican Church
9400 Kennedy Road, Unionville
(just north of 16th Avenue)
(905) 477-1991

We invite you to spend Easter with us.
HOLY SATURDAY
April 22nd
7:30 p.m.
The Great Vigil of Easter
A Beautiful Service of Blessing the Paschal Candle, Adult Baptism and Holy Communion

EASTER DAY
April 23rd
8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
HOLY COMMUNION

We're a friendly Church. Come and journey with us as we grow in faith and share our hope.

MARKHAM MISSIONARY CHURCH
Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
5438 Major MacKenzie Dr. East ~ 294-5081

EASTER SUNDAY - April 23
8:00 a.m. - Community Resurrection Celebration
8:30 a.m. - Sunrise Fellowship Hour
10:30 a.m. - Morning Celebration - Pastor Thurton
Cantata - "I Am the Resurrection"


ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
14 Highgate Drive, Markham,
(Two blocks north of Steeles or two blocks south of Denison on Birchmount Rd.)
Phone (905) 474-1224

HOLY SATURDAY
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Commences
N.B. NO 5:00 P.M. MASS ON HOLY SATURDAY
(Good Friday and Holy Saturday are days of fast and abstinence)

EASTER SUNDAY
9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 3:00 p.m.
CONFESSIONS
HOLIDAY SATURDAY
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
HAPPY EASTER

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
20 Union St., Unionville - 477-1731
(Near Hwy. 7 & Main)

EASTER SERVICES
Easter Sunday - April 23
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.



A Church To Call Home
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
"THE LAMB LIVES ON!"
Pastor Mark Lowrie
"SOJURN", a group of young people from Briercrest Bible college will lead us in worship praise to our risen Savior!

8176 McCowan Road (just south of Hwy. 7)
Markham, ON Tel. 905-475-7695
Home of Centennial Child Care Centre

DON'T PAY THAT TRAFFIC TICKET!!

Traffic Ticket Experts is staffed by ex-police officers who will act as your agent in court defending all traffic tickets (speeding, accidents, careless, impaired, etc.).
Call for FREE consultation.

Guaranteed Service **(905) 940-3000 4418 Hwy. 7 East, Unionville**

WE WIN OR IT'S FREE

