

# Easter Blessings to All

## The Meaning of Easter

Easter eggs. Easter bunnies. Easter clothes. It's Springtime, and all these things remind us that new things are happening. New growth is appearing on the trees and on the lawns. The weather is warming. It's a time to rejoice.

And the real meaning of Easter is a cause for rejoicing as well. Almost 20 centuries ago a tomb was found empty and a new thing was born. Can we believe it?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most well-attested events of history. His resurrection sets Him apart from every other religious leader, and, in fact, apart from every other person who has ever lived.

The only possible alternative to Jesus' resurrection was posed by the Jewish leaders of that day ~ someone must have

stolen the body (Matthew 28:11-15). But who?

The Romans would not have any reason to do so. Their determination was to maintain peace. They were proud of the "Pax Romana." Stealing Jesus' body would only provoke unrest.

The Jews would not have taken His body thereby giving reason for the disciples to claim His resurrection. They were the ones who had called for a guard to ensure that His dead body would remain in the tomb. In fact, all they would have had to do to crush the budding Christian faith was produce the body. Obviously, they did not because they could not.

The disciples would have been the most likely to steal the body (Matthew 27:64). But for all of them to be willing to die as martyrs for what they knew was a hoax, is truly beyond belief. The religion they

professed called for honesty not deceit. Surely someone would have broken under the weight of such deception.

These and so many other evidences ~ Jesus' appearances after His resurrection to hundreds of people (I Corinthians 15:1-8), the fulfillment of Old Testament and Jesus' own prophecies (John 2:19), the birth and survival of the church, the change of the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday (i.e., the day of resurrection: Luke 24:1-8), the assured faith of believers today and the change that take place in a believer's life - all these and more attest to the veracity of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The apostle Peter put it this way, "we have not taught cleverly designed myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses" (2 Peter 1:16).

And because He lives we have the assurance of our own resurrection as well. Jesus' promise to us is this, "I am the

resurrection and the life: Whoever believes in Me, though they die, shall live again" (John 11:25)

It's no wonder Easter is such an important date on the calendar. But, it must be noted that by gathering for worship on Sunday, His resurrection is celebrated each week in churches all across the world. And even more, believers recognize Jesus alive and at work within their hearts everyday.

Yes, Jesus did rise. The tomb was and is empty. His resurrection is historical reality. Christianity is trustworthy and reliable. The Bible is true. Our faith is well placed.

So, let's celebrate Easter for all it's worth!

- submitted by Paul Fawcett

**Central United Church**  
131 Main St. Unionville ~ 474-0183  
www.unitedchurch.com  
**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 15**  
8:00 a.m. Easter Dawn Service at the Church  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Services  
*A Warm Welcome Awaits You*

**He is Risen!**

The Pastors of the  
**MARKHAM MINISTERIAL ASSOC.**  
would like to invite everyone to take part in the

**United Resurrection Service**  
Easter Sunday ~ 8 a.m.

Markville Mall  
Centre Court Yard  
*Everyone Welcome*

A Warm Invitation to our  
**Easter Service**  
Sunday April 15<sup>TH</sup>  
11:00 a.m.  
Featuring Guest Speaker  
Dr. Stephen Farris  
Knox College  
All welcome  
Many come in casual dress  
*"The Church With Heart"*  
Unionville Presbyterian Church  
600 Village Parkway  
South of Carlton Road on the west side  
(905) 475-6233

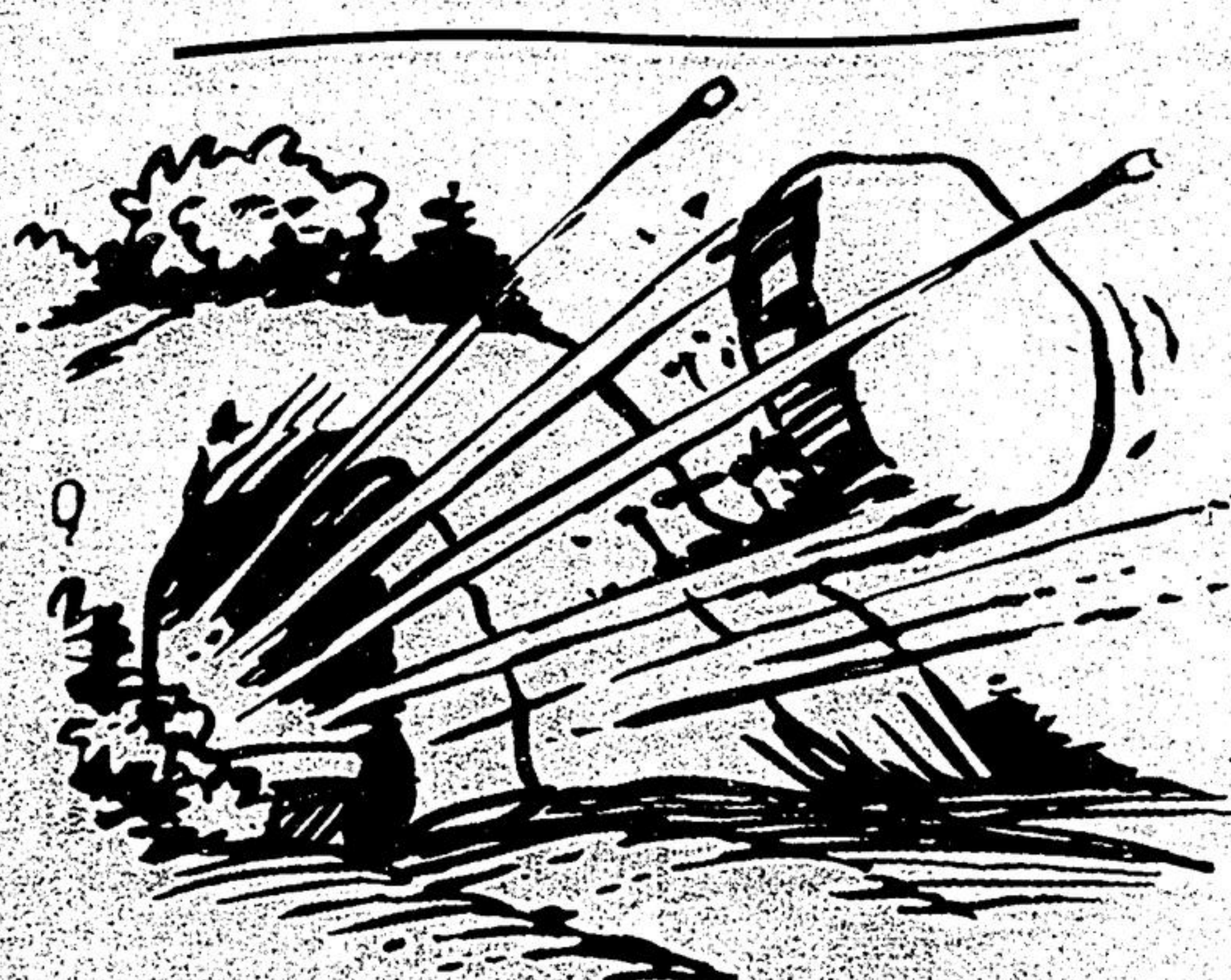
**GRACE CHURCH**  
(Anglican)  
(905) 294-3184  
19 Parkway Avenue, Markham  
Join in our  
Easter celebrations:  
**April 15 ~ EASTER DAY**  
8:00 a.m.  
&  
9:15 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist  
11:00 a.m.  
Procession & Sung Eucharist

**THE BRIDGE**  
A Markham Community Church  
5440 16<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, Markham  
(E. of McCowan Rd) 905-294-6716  
www.thebridgemarkham.com  
You are invited to a special Easter Service at  
**THE BRIDGE**  
on **SUNDAY, APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
AT 10:30 A.M.  
Join us for some great music and an inspirational message entitled  
"The Meaning and Importance of Easter"  
*Come celebrate with us!*  
Connecting With God, To Each Other and To Our Community.

**Markham Missionary Church**  
Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada  
5438 Major Mackenzie Drive East, Markham  
(905) 294-5081  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
10:30 a.m. "Redeeming Love" - Easter musical drama with choir and cast  
NO Sunday Evening Service

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

**Two Commandments<sup>TM</sup> Christian School**  
905-944-8859



*He is risen, as He said.*

**St. Philip's on-the-hill**  
Anglican Church  
9400 Kennedy Road, Unionville  
(just north of 16<sup>TH</sup> Avenue)  
(905) 477-1991

We invite you to spend Easter with us.  
**HOLY SATURDAY**  
8:00 p.m.  
The Great Vigil of Easter  
*A beautiful service of Worship and Renewal for Easter*  
**EASTER DAY**  
Christ is Risen Alleluiah!!  
• 8:15 a.m. Holy Communion  
• 10:20 a.m. Choral Eucharist  
We're a friendly Church. Come and journey with us as  
*'We grow in faith and share our hope.'*