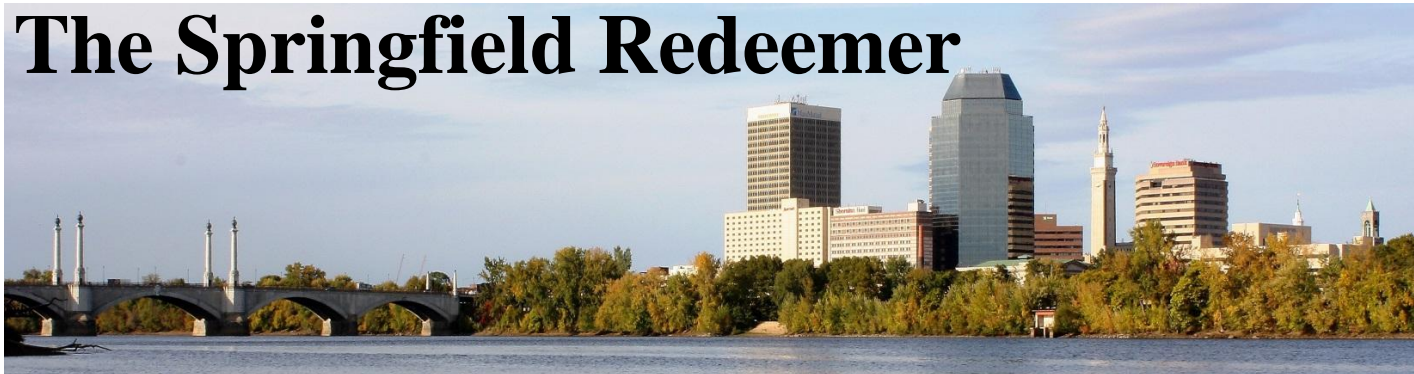


The Springfield Redeemer



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John saw Jesus coming . . . and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

How to Celebrate Easter! by Roberta D’Amico

Easter can be fun to celebrate, but also a conundrum. First, because there are many traditions associated with it, both spiritual and secular. Many of us have fond memories of childhood activities that we enjoyed, Easter baskets, candy, and coloring eggs. But when we come to Christ, we change certain practices and adopt new traditions.

As I grew spiritually and in the Word of God, I discovered that Judaism and the Old Testament are foundational to Christianity and also that Easter was a pagan celebration. I began celebrating Passover at Easter time.

This year, Passover began on Good Friday and I participated in a large Passover celebration called a Seder, which was both Jewish in origin and Christian in meaning. The Seder is somewhat like a re-enactment of the Passover where it is explained with object lessons. The master of ceremonies was Eric Pelouin, a pastor of Our Father’s House on Chicopee Street in Chicopee MA, where it was held. He has been leading Seders for many years and is both entertaining and knowledgeable in Scripture.

The Seder has been celebrated by Orthodox Jews since the time of Moses, and now with some modifications, by both Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ. We were actually re-enacting not just the Old Testament Passover, but the Last Supper! As

Jesus celebrated the Passover Seder with His disciples the night He was betrayed, He gave it new meaning. See Luke 22:14 - 18.

The Passover Seder has many traditional parts. The first is called Sanctifying the Home, where leavened bread symbolizes sin and is removed from the home. We went around the room with our flashlights helping the children find slices of bread! Next the elder lady at each table took the role of “Mama” and lit the candle. Then we poured and partook of the first of 4 cups of grape juice (in place of wine.) Next comes the ceremonial washing of hands, where we dip our fingers in a bowl and wipe them on a napkin. At the Last Supper, Jesus went further and washed His disciples’ feet, as another object lesson, as this was a job for the lowest servant to do. Do likewise, Jesus said. Next comes the dipping of the



bitter herbs in the salt water and eating it, symbolic of the bitterness of slavery and sin, which we

were all slaves to. The other items on the Seder Plate were identified, explained, and sampled, including horseradish and haroset.

On the table is a Matzah Tosh, a white embroidered bag with three compartments. In it are three whole pieces of matzah. The



The middle piece is taken out and broken in two. One half is wrapped in a napkin and hidden away somewhere in the room, to be retrieved and used later. This ritual did not begin until after Jesus was crucified and risen, and to this day, Jews who do not believe in Jesus cannot agree on what it means. To us who believe it is clear that the three symbolize the Trinity, the middle piece is Jesus who was broken for us, buried, and resurrected!

The next part involves four questions about the first Passover in Egypt and the ten plagues. Just as the blood of Jesus saves us from sin and death, the lamb's blood on the doors of the Hebrews caused the Angel of Death to "pass over" them, foretelling our salvation. After more prayers in Hebrew and English, and more singing, dinner was served. Traditionally they have lamb, but chicken is an option. Dinner was delicious, of course.

After we had eaten, the hidden matzah was found, redeemed for a small prize, broken and shared around the table for a time of communion,



along with the third cup of juice, called the Cup of Redemption. There is a 4th cup, but Jesus ended the Last Supper with a hymn before they finished the last cup. Jesus celebrated Passover every year of His earthly life, but this was the Last Passover He would celebrate until He celebrates it with us in the coming Kingdom of Heaven. Read it in Matt 26:26-29!

When the Jews celebrated Passover in the Old Testament it was a foreshadowing of Jesus' sacrifice that He would make for us, for the forgiveness of sins. Now we celebrate the remembrance that Jesus died for our sins, rose, and is coming again! Now we can drink the final cup together, the Cup of Praise.

This is just a brief explanation. There are many more fascinating details. I hope you will consider attending a Passover Seder in the future.



Please pray for God's blessing and His favor and wisdom for Dr. Scott Lively as he runs as a candidate for Governor of Massachusetts. He has a plan for lowering taxes, dealing with the opioid crisis, restarting manufacturing, and other issues. Dr. Scott Lively is a Christian, a pastor, a lawyer, and is strongly pro-life and pro-family, and believes in the Constitution of the United States. If you are concerned about these issues, we could use your help. Please go to his website: www.livelyforgovernor.us or call (413) 885-5777.

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 a.m.- Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim. 1 p.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene. 4 p.m.- Transformation Centered Healing Ministries with Pastors Eric & Susan Thomas.

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

WED – Overcomers (Recovery and Beyond) at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.; FIAT 2nd and 4th Thursday 7 p.m.

SATURDAY: Lunch 2 to 4 p.m., except first Saturday. **1ST SATURDAY:** April 7, "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHT: April 28, 7 p.m. Open Mic with Cathy Marvici.