

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

Now that Easter Sunday is over, where do we go from here? Did you know we are *still* in the Easter Season, and will be each Sunday between now and Pentecost on June 4th. Each of these seven Sundays is called a Sunday *of* Easter. Why is that?

According to *Wikipedia*, a free internet Encyclopedia, *Eastertide*, or the Easter Season, begins on Easter Sunday and continues until Pentecost in the Christian liturgical calendar. It spans a total of seven weeks. The first Sunday after Easter has often been called Low Sunday. The next Sunday is the Second Sunday after Easter. The Sunday after that is the Third Sunday after Easter, and so on.

A new liturgical calendar, which took effect in 1970, changed the "Sundays after Easter" to "Sundays *of* Easter," with Low Sunday becoming the "Second Sunday of Easter," the next Sunday the "Third Sunday of Easter," etc., with the Sunday after the Ascension being renamed the "Seventh Sunday of Easter." Concurrently, red paraments, which had been authorized for the entire week of Pentecost prior to the calendar reform, were in the future to be used only on the day of Pentecost. Similarly, white paraments continued to be used on Trinity Sunday itself, but the liturgical color became green for both weeks other than Pentecost and Trinity Sundays.

When the Anglican churches implemented their own calendar reform effective in 1976, they adopted the same shortened definition of the Easter season as the Roman Catholic Church which had been promulgated six years earlier. Some Anglican provinces continue to label the Sundays between Easter and the Ascension "Sundays After Easter" rather than "Sundays of Easter"; however, others, such as the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, use the term "Sundays of Easter".

As a non-denominational church, we are part of the wider church, and will be referring in our Order of Worship to the "Sundays of Easter". We will still be singing songs and reading scripture that focuses upon these 50 days which followed the Resurrection of our Lord. The crosses in front of our church will remain draped throughout these 50 days until the Sunday of Pentecost.

BOB+

PASTOR

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Many people do not prepare themselves for worship. Over the years the time before the worship service has been a time to visit with those who are sitting next to, or around, us. We have a wonderful opportunity to prepare ourselves for worship here at Everglades Community Church.

First of all we are blessed each and every week by special music between 10:30 and 10:45 AM. Those who offer their God-given talents in songs of praise help us enjoy a richness of music.

At 10:45, our organist, Jimmy Brewer, begins to play music designed to help us shift our minds from songs of praise to songs of worship. During this time all conversation should cease and our minds begin to focus more closely upon how we will worship God. We can do several things:

- 1. Bow our heads and enter into silent meditation and prayers.**
- 2. Take a hymnal and read some of the words to the hymns or silently read the responsive readings in the back of the hymnal.**
- 3. Take a Bible and read verses or Psalms to set our minds on things above as we find inspiration in God's Word.**

When Glenna Potter begins to play the piano and the organ music is over we should know that the worship service is about to commence.

Upon the entrance of the Pastor, the congregation should know that the worship service has begun.

When the choir sings the Introit, which is a hymn, psalm or chorus sung after the Minister has entered the Sanctuary and begins to sing, worship HAS begun. Let us say to ourselves, "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable unto you my God, and my Redeemer", or "Let all the earth keep silence before Him", or "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it".

Let us remember our worship begins at 10:45 AM. PASTOR BOB+