

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 PALM SUNDAY 10am Worship - Pastor Yuri 11:15am Faith Formation 12pm BBYOL	30	31 8am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting 7pm Council Meeting	1 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Proverbs</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	2	3 GOOD FRIDAY 10am Worship 7pm Youth	4 1-4pm Baking Club
5 EASTER SUNDAY 10am Worship - Pastor Yuri 11:15am Faith Formation 12pm BBYOL	6	7 8am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	8 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Proverbs</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	9	10 7pm Youth	11
12 Communion 10am Worship - Howard Moore 11:15am Faith Formation - Ed & Joy: " <i>The Holy Spirit</i> " 12pm BBYOL 1:30-4:30pm Membership Class	13	14 8am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	15 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Proverbs</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	16	17 7pm Youth	18 9am Ladies Fellowship 7:30pm UGM
19 10am Worship - Pastor Yuri 11:15am Faith Formation - Ed & Joy: " <i>The Holy Spirit</i> " 12pm BBYOL 1:30-4:30pm Membership Class	20	21 8am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	22 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Proverbs</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	23	24 7pm Youth	25 9am Men's Prayer Fellowship
26 10am Worship - Pastor Yuri 11:15am Faith Formation - Ed & Joy: " <i>The Holy Spirit</i> " 12pm BBYOL	27	28 8am Men's Prayer Meeting 12pm Women's Prayer Meeting	29 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Proverbs</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	30	1 7pm Youth	2



Bethesda Church

Newsletter

Congregational Letter

April 2026

“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe...” –Hebrews 1:1-2

Since January, we have been diving into one short passage from the Gospel of Luke, commonly known as Jesus’ *Sermon on the Plain*. And for most of April, we will continue to work our way to the end of that teaching, a teaching which has profoundly shaped how Jesus’ disciples understand themselves and their role in the world. And rightly so.

But next month we will be shifting gears, returning to the overview of the whole Bible that we began last summer, using a resource known as *The Story*, (edited by Randy Frazee). You may remember that *The Story* is an abridged version of the Bible. Many of you will have your own copies from last year. But since God brought some of you to us since then, this month I’m giving you a heads up—an opportunity to get your copy of the book for yourself before we dive back into it. Hull’s Bookstore (204-947-1365/1317A Portage Ave.) would certainly bring in a copy for you. It’s also available through common online stores. If you need help getting your hands on a copy, please let me know!

The Story divides the Bible into 31 chapters. The plan is to cover one of those chapters per week. Last summer we started in late May and got through the first 13 chapters, which took us right through the story of King Solomon. That gives us 18 more chapters to cover this summer, which is why I’m starting a little earlier this year!

Why this change in approach? In general I believe in working slowly and carefully through texts, but the Bible itself contains many summaries of how God has revealed himself to us and/or entered history to redeem us. One such brief summary is the sentence you see above. Although the focus is on how God has communicated with us, it deftly straddles all of time, looking backward to the beginnings of the universe, and forward to when King Jesus receives his inheritance in a renewed creation. Other biblical summaries focus on different things, depending on the occasion. In Acts 7, Stephen marshals salient details of biblical history to turn the false claims made against him and Jesus into an indictment of his accusers—that is, that they and people like them throughout history “always resist the Holy Spirit!” (Acts 7:51) Some summaries—like the ones in Nehemiah 9 and Daniel 9—are prayers of confession and repentance. Others—like Psalm 78—serve as a pledge to remember the past and be faithful in the present. Some are relatively focused, such as when the aged Moses stood before the people and detailed what God had done for them over the course of the 40 years that had passed since he’d given them the Law at Mount Sinai, while others are bare sketches spanning thousands of years (or aeons as in the summary above). Sometimes a summary can be just a list of names. That’s what the biblical genealogies are: curated lists of names that hint at a bigger story.



Bethesda Church Office Information
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:00am-2:30pm
Phone: 204-987-2890 (main office)
1350 Grant Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3M 2A7
Email: office@bethesdachurch.ca

I've framed our summary of the Bible as the truer of the two main stories that give human beings hope: The Story of Rescue Unfortunately, most people motivate themselves with some version of The Story of Becoming. It's very familiar: we work hard and make something of ourselves, attempting to slowly rise above our circumstances. I maintain that this is an empty and futile story to build your life upon. The famous 20th century historians, Will and Ariel Durant, after spending most of their lives detailing most of recorded history in 11 massive volumes, struggled to find a way to measure human progress that was both objective and positive. Surveying all of life, the best they could come up with was our "increasing control of the environment". The Durants were atheists who nonetheless greatly valued the contributions of Western civilization, and of Christianity in particular. But still, being completely

honest they concluded that the only lasting joy—the point of life—is education, the ability to pass along what you've learned. Here's the final sentence of the book in which they boiled all that history down: "If a man is fortunate he will, before he dies, gather up as much as he can of his civilized heritage and transmit it to his children. And to his final breath he will be grateful for this inexhaustible legacy, knowing that it is our nourishing mother and our lasting life."

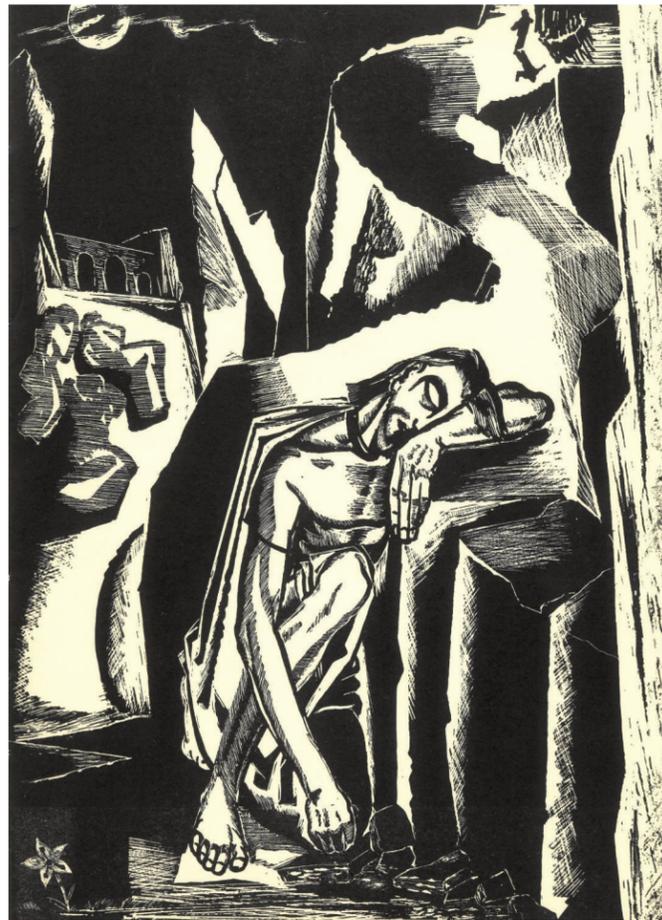
Now, I have always been a committed teacher. Like the Durants, I do get a lot of joy from teaching, and I am indeed grateful for it. But as with anything that we are tempted worship apart from God, it will not sustain us when things start to fall apart. That's the trouble with the Story of Becoming. It only works as a motivator in times of affluence and stability, when strong institutions give us the false impression that we have made the world our own.

The Bible, on the other hand, tells The Story of Rescue. This is a story that fills us with gratitude in times of plenty yet also sustains us through times of uncertainty, need, or pain. The Story of Rescue is the one that we will officially resume in May.

Unofficially, we proclaim The Story of Rescue week after week, especially at this time of year, when we remember the way we were rescued: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Amazing! Our Rescuer is the same one "through whom the universe" (and we) were made. Our Rescuer is the same one who is "the heir of all things". Jesus claims us as his inheritance! Hallelujah! "For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" (Romans 5:8,10) So far from emptiness or futility, the rescue story that we celebrate this month and which we will enjoy over

the spring and summer is The Story that gives life, that enriches us with a meaning and a purpose that are permanent! This is The Story in which we not only cling to our Rescuer, we also find new life by his Spirit. The Author comes to dwell in us, enlivening us, challenging us, strengthening us, inspiring us.

As a way of preparing you for what we will be considering this week—the means of our Rescue—I offer the following images from a passion play I found recently in a used bookstore. I find these modern woodcuts by de Bezer to be profoundly moving. Through them, my prayer is that you, too, will be inspired to worship the one through whom God has spoken and revealed himself "in these last days", our God who is "kind to the ungrateful and wicked", who loves his enemies and does good to them, and enables us to do so too! —YH



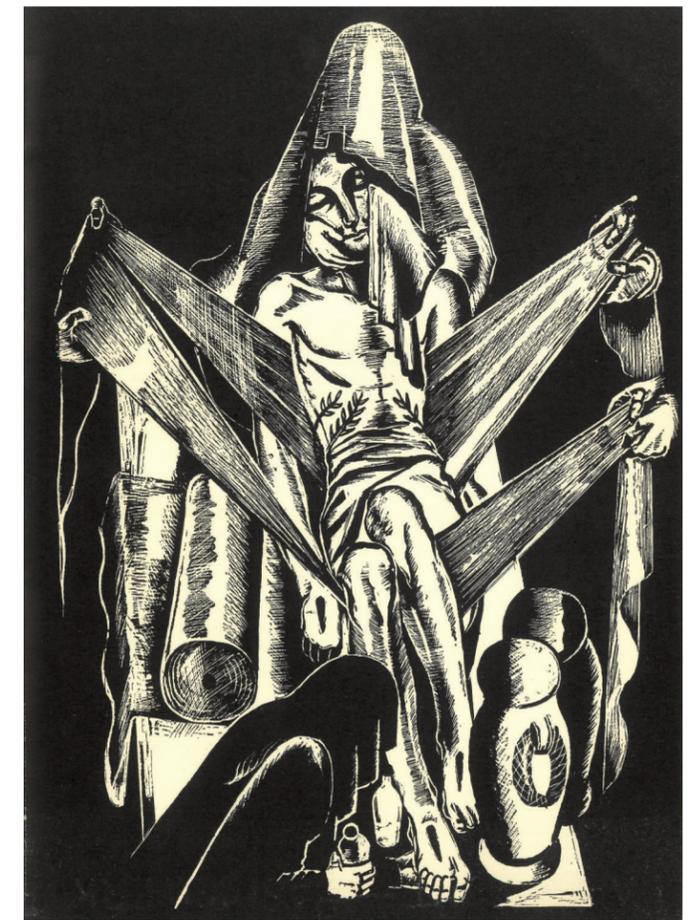
Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."



Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.



Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull [Golgotha].



Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen.