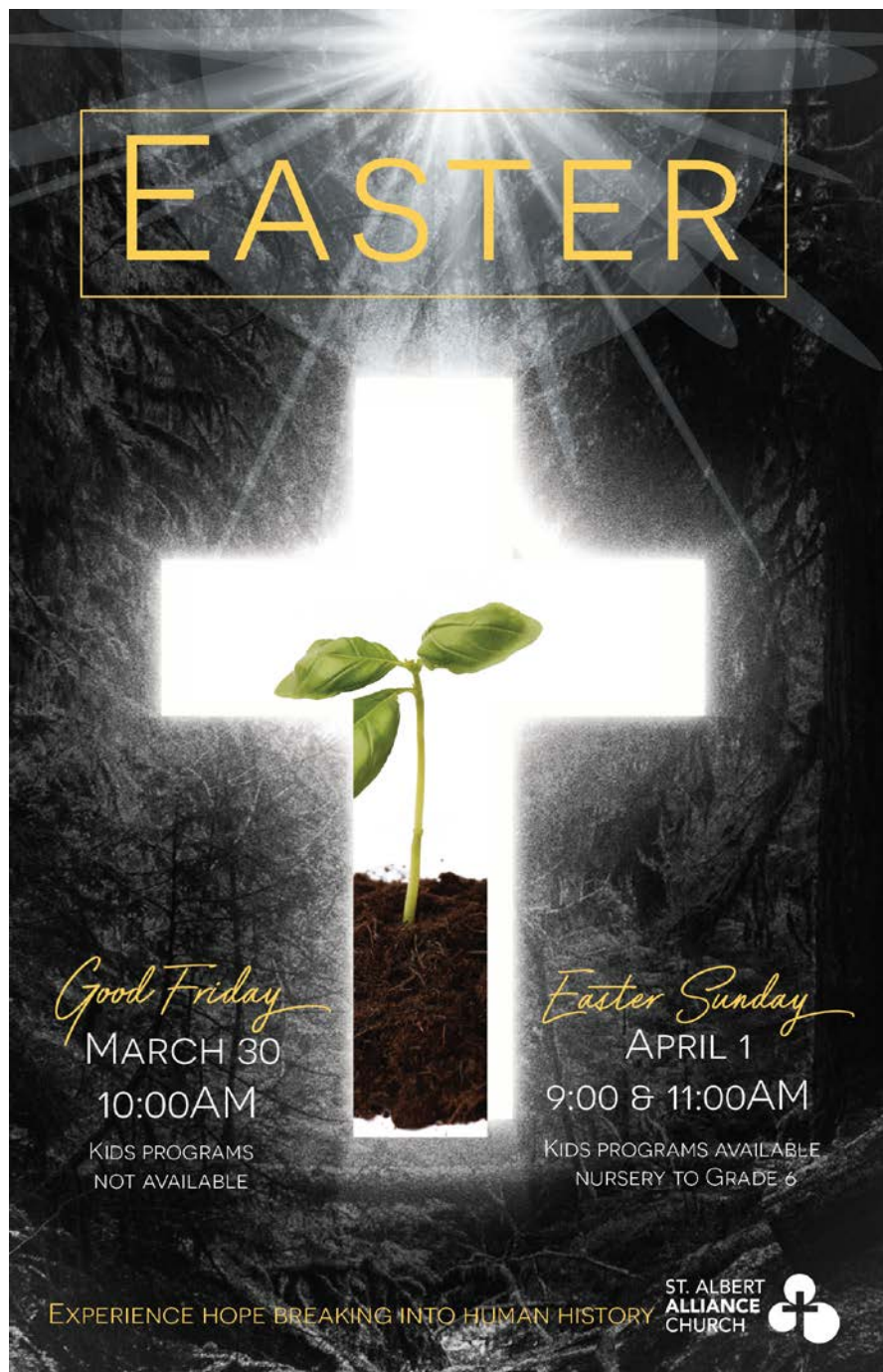




the JESUS MANIFESTO

**Do Not Worry:
Belief Called to Account**
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Matthew 6:25-34 NLT

That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The line drawn in the sand:

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs." (v 31-32)

Jesus frames worry as a matter of _____ - which is not simply a matter of _____ the kingdom perspective, but _____ as a result.

Our constant pull into worry calls us out on 3 fundamental questions that should have a dramatic impact on the way we live our lives:

1. Is God really _____?

Or is the highest authority in my life found somewhere else?

The way of unbelief: _____

The way of belief: _____

2. Does God really _____?

Or do I need to find my identity and value somewhere else?

The way of unbelief: _____

The way of belief: _____

3. Will God _____?

Or am I alone, left to fend for myself?

The way of unbelief: _____

The way of belief: _____ and _____

Jesus' bottom line:

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." (v33)

The only way to break the lifestyle of unbelief is to _____. This is how we make ourselves available to the Holy Spirit's work of transformation and always begins with:

- _____ - lest we begin to believe that we (our personal experiences and feelings) are the centre of the universe and that we understand the world that we live in.
- _____ - that we might grow in recognizing God's voice in order to grow in knowing him - personally! Only here can we begin to truly understand ourselves and our world.
- _____ with other Jesus-followers - so that we can strengthen our recognition of God's voice and engage in genuine transformation through support, care and accountability.

An interesting closing statement:

"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." (v34)

Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Challenge

In reflection with your Apprenticeship Prayer Partners, ask these questions: What causes you to worry these days? Might your worry be a contradiction to what you know/believe about God? How can you live from a place of trust and believe God is leading/will lead you?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Replacing Worry

Why do you worry? It is a question that Jesus poses in the Sermon on the Mount. It is a question that probes our hearts as we determine where our trust and hope lies. Worry is what we do after we have planned, prepared and acted properly. When we continue to stew about something, we have crossed into the world of worry. **Worry is a disproportionate level of concern based on an inappropriate measure of fear.**

Worry keeps me focused on my own limited resources. Trust keeps my attention on God's abundant resources. Jesus, through the Sermon on the Mount challenges where our hearts lie while at the same time challenging what we understand about the Kingdom of God at work in and through us. Do we believe his provision to sustain us in the life he is calling us to live?

Seeking the kingdom first means facing our trials and troubles not with anxiety but with trust that God can and will work in them. Most of our worries are due to the bad habits we learned while living outside of the kingdom of God, when we trusted in things like money and approval, even though they always disappointed.

Prayer helps us deal with our worries in several ways. First, we realize that the provision of the kingdom of God is available to us in every circumstance, large or small. Second, we see things from God's perspective, which puts our problems and concerns in a new light.

I find that the practice of writing my prayers forces me to think about my concerns: are they driven by false narrative or centered on the advancement of the kingdom? Be very specific in your prayers. Why? Most of our prayers are so vague that we would not even know if God had answered them.

This week each morning set aside 10 to 15 minutes.

- **Think about all of the things you might be anxious about.**
- **Write them down in your journal or a notebook.**
- **Ask what you can do to remedy each of these situations.**
- **Make a note to yourself to do the things you can do.**
- **Turn everything else over to God.**
- **Write your request to God and be specific.**