

March 31, 2024
"The Curtain"
Rick Raines
rraines@fairmountcc.org

This is the Year of Jesus at Fairmount.

We are **discovering** Jesus from the very **beginning** of the Bible.

In March, we have seen the **connection** between Jesus and the ancient **temple**.

Another remarkable furnishing of the temple was the **curtain**.

Exodus 26:31-35

"Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Put the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law in the Most Holy Place. Place the table outside the curtain on the north side of the tabernacle and put the lampstand opposite it on the south side."

2 Chronicles 3:14

He made the curtain of blue, purple and crimson yarn and fine linen, with cherubim worked into it.

This curtain symbolized the **separation** between **God** and **His people**.

On **Friday**, Jesus **ripped that curtain** in two.

Mark 15:33-39

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

On **Sunday**, Jesus became **our High Priest** forever.

Hebrews 6:19-20

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever ...

We now have access to the Father through Jesus.

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Because of the **Resurrection**, what is your **next step**?

Draw <u>near</u> to God – be <u>washed</u> of your sins – <u>hold on</u> to hope – <u>love</u> others – <u>embrace</u> the fellowship.