

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Easter Season Part 1

Easter is upon us, at which time we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

However, what if He never rose from the dead and was yet in the grave? This is not a light question, but one deserving of earnest reflection. In fact, the Bible speaks clearly to this issue in the following passage, penned by the apostle Paul to the ancient Christians at Corinth:

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NIV)

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

What are the ramifications of a still-dead Jesus?

1) Verse 14a - If Christ has not been raised, the preaching of the gospel is useless (i.e., empty, futile or pointless). The hallmark message of the Church since its inception has been Christ crucified and resurrected. We proclaim a living-not a dead-Savior. However, this message comes to nothing if the Savior Himself is truly gone.

2) Verse 14b - If Christ has not been raised, our faith is also useless. Consider the various things we trust Jesus for (e.g., salvation, healing, guidance, etc.). Each of these things is contingent upon Christ being both alive and well. Remove a living Jesus and what exactly are we trusting in? Who, precisely, are we praying to and through?

3) Verse 15a - If Christ has not been raised, the Church must contend with some serious credibility issues. The apostles and early disciples of Christ claimed that He was alive. If the resurrection did not occur, this would put everything they taught into dispute. They must, rightfully, be deemed false witnesses. Moreover, every believer throughout space and time who proclaimed the Risen Christ must also be deemed an unreliable witness!

4) Verse 17 - If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sins. Realize that we are not saved through the death of Christ alone, but also by His Resurrection. His resurrection was God's validation that His sacrifice was acceptable and sufficient to pay for our sin. Without the resurrection we have no certainty that God the Father has made a way for us to enter heaven through the Son. Ultimately, if Jesus could not save Himself, what hope is there that He can save us?

5) Verse 18 - If Christ has not been raised, the dead in Christ are truly lost. This is an especially painful point to ponder. We derive comfort from the hope that dead believers are ushered into heavenly glory. We derive joy in knowing that we will see them again when our time comes. Yet if He was not raised, this sense of comfort and joy is futile. Dead believers are not with Christ but separated from God for all eternity. There

is no grand reunion to take place across death's shores: only the certainty of judgment.

6) Verse 19 - If Christ has not been raised, those who trust in Him are to be most pitied. Believers sacrifice and endure hardship because we believe that Christ will make it worthwhile in the end. Yet, if He is dead and there is no reward in store, this is all for nothing! How tragic to place faith in One who, in the end, cannot save.

Christianity has endured centuries of peril and persecution. However, it could not endure a dead Jesus! Remove a Risen Lord and the whole of Christendom comes crashing down like a clumsily-built house of cards. If it turned out that Jesus' body was definitively found, I would be among the first to abandon the faith. Yet, if the skeptics would have us wrestle with our opening question (i.e., "What if Jesus never rose from death?"), it is only fair that they consider its corollary. In the next edition, we will address the subject: "What if Jesus DID rise from the grave?"

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below. Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

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of God
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Palm Sunday
"Hosanna to the Son of David - the Prophet of Nazareth"

Scripture Reading:
Matthew 21 v 1-11

I. Introduction
This past week has been difficult, dealing with the loss of one of our members and my own health scare last Wednesday, which has led to a challenging recovery.

I was concerned about today's service. Will I make it to church? Shall we Zoom? Yesterday, as I was working on my sermon, not feeling well and struggling to hear what God was trying to tell me, my husband Jim, prayed with me again, like he had done several times during the week. I felt a sense of calm and shortly thereafter I encountered an extraordinary experience that could only be attributed to the Divine power of God.

As a church, with other churches in the area, several individuals, together with my family in South Africa, we had been praying for a young woman, let's call her Susan, here in our neighborhood, who suffered a severe pulmonary embolism, which led her to be on life support about six weeks ago. For weeks we prayed and miraculously she made significant progress and recovered to the point that she came home this past week. We were informed by her parents that she will need lots of therapy to recover, but it was unclear to what extent she would recover.

A few moments after Jim's prayer for me, through my office window, I saw "Susan," the young eighteen-year-old young woman, who was on life support, walking with her dad. I was in complete shock to see her walk without the help of her father. Jim rushed to let them in. We literally witnessed a miracle, because she was walking and speaking to us as if nothing had happened to her. I cried,

as we held each other. Her father then said, "Now we must pray for Margaret." A little while after they left, I felt as if we were visited by an angel from God. "Susan" had always been a sweet girl, but something was different about her, her presence, her smile and the way she spoke. I knew God sent her to us, to me at that very moment with my own health issues, and what to do for today. God sent her to encourage me. I started feeling as if something heavy had lifted from inside me and I started walking normally again, up and down the stairs, which I could not do easily the last few days. Why is this story of "Susan" so important to me? Let's have a look at this morning's passage from Matthew.

II. Hosanna to the Son of David, the Prophet of Nazareth

The story of Christ's entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, with the crowds surrounding Him and following Him, waving their palms is a familiar one. We celebrate it every year. It is a story of Him approaching the very place where He would face the religious authorities who rejected His ministry and His person, especially the claim that He came from God.

The crowds were mainly from Galilee; the place He grew up in and where He gathered His disciples and spread the Gospel. These were ordinary people, surrounding Him, praying with Him, and supporting Him. They did not fully understand the danger He was in, but He did.

This was a crowd of Christ's followers meeting up with a somewhat hostile crowd in the City of Jerusalem. In verses 10 and 11 we read the whole city of Jerusalem was literally shaken and disturbed, questioning who this person was?

The Galilean crowd outside the walls of Jerusalem, made it clear that this man was the Son of David, from royal authority, and that He was blessed because He came in the Name of the Lord, and that He was a prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. The title prophet would refer to the Prophet like Moses who played a significant role in the Jewish expectation of the Messiah, says R.T France in his commentary on Matthew.

Judea was ruled by Rome, and anyone who claimed they were a Jewish King, would be in trouble. We see here the clash of religious and political authority with the authority of the humble character of the Son of God, who traveled this journey for us, to save us, to show the world that God sent Him to bring us closer into the bosom of God. He braved His own cruel death, protected by a crowd who finally understood what He was facing, but would not leave Him.

III. Conclusion
This week's experience of loss, of sorrow, health scare, and the showing up of God's "angel" child at our house, made me reflect once again on the basics of life here on earth - the importance of giving everything to God, and trusting God's mysterious hand in our lives, even though we do not always understand God's ways. It is like the Galilean crowd walking through the valley of death, with those who suffer through it, facing our own struggles, health issues and mortality and recognizing how God shows up miraculously through God's angels on earth to encourage us and strengthening us.

And then I realized

See **SERMONS**, page 14

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No.
WO26P0846EA
Estate of:
Justin Arthur Bealand
Date of Death: 01/15/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Justine Catherine Mansueti of Lancaster, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Justine Catherine Mansueti of Lancaster, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/28/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court, Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 26, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
04/02/2026

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON APRIL 4, 2026. AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:
2007 Lincoln MKX
VIN 2LMDU88C37BJ27689
2007 Hyundai ELANTRA
VIN KMHDU46D27U041459
2008 Toyota Camry

VIN 4T1BE46K08U216392
2007 Subaru Impreza
VIN JF1GG63647H810259
2009 Mercury Milan
VIN 3MEHM07Z39R612393
2004 Subaru Forester
VIN JF1SG65684G740144
2011 Honda CR-V
VIN 5J6RE4H72BL055630
2008 Honda Civic
VIN 2HGFG12848H526865
2013 Hyundai SONATA
VIN 5NPEB4AC9DH690064
2016 Ram 1500
VIN 1C6RR7GT9GS124425
2012 Honda Accord
VIN 1HGCP3F8XCA031442
2016 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN 5N1AR2MM7GC613241

THE SALE WILL BE HELD AT EARLY'S ON PARK AVE. 536 PARK AVE. WORCESTER, MA 01603 03/19, 03/26, 04/02/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA01608
Docket No.
WO26D0137DR
Andrew A Hey vs.
Justin P Varney
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING**

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
**Andrew A Hey
376 Hubbardston Rd
Barre, MA 01005**

your answer, if any, on or before **05/26/2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 19, 2026

Stephanie K Fattman,
Register of Probate
04/02/2026

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor, requested by Pine Hill Leasing for retail gas station, convenient store and car wash Per 140-8 B(1) at property located at Worcester Road, Assessor Map H, Lots 218 and 219 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 72349, Page 62.

All persons who wish to comment on this matter should attend the hearing, or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.

Floyd Kelley, Chairman
03/26, 04/02/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester District Docket No.
WO26P0906EA
Estate of:
Charles F. Fullam
Date of Death:
January 18, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Melissa L. Fales of Ware, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Melissa L. Fales of Ware, MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety on the bond.**

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
04/02/2026

Town of Oakham PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Oakham Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 7:15 p.m.**, at the Town Hall, to consider the special permit application of James and Michelle Bertrand for light automotive mechanical work, at 472 North Brookfield Road, Oakham.

A copy of the application may be reviewed at the office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone who wishes to be heard on the proposed special permit should attend the hearing, or submit comments in writing to the Planning Board before the hearing date.

Phillip Warbasse, Chairman
04/02, 04/09/2026



Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



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Richard Mansfield
Director



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