

The New Backpack

"You're going to be walking a long way," my mother had said. "I'd like my son to have a good backpack." It was going to be my first trip to Mexico to visit the Mixtec Indians. Many of them live in far-off villages scattered through the hills of Oaxaca, Mexico. My mother was right. Just to get to the village where the Bible conference was to be held, we would have to walk for many hours over the hills. Mother kindly bought me the best backpack she could find. It was so light that you could lift it with one finger, and it had foam padding on the straps to keep the straps from cutting into my shoulders. When it was packed with extra clothes, some medicines, and a few other things that I might need, I tried the new backpack on. Sure, that was fine. I could carry that load easily enough! A few weeks later we arrived in Mexico at the point where we would begin the hike. "Could I carry your pack for you?" asked one of the Christian Indians. "No thanks, I'm fine," I told him. So we started off on the long walk. The backpack worked nicely, but the longer we walked the heavier it got. Surely those things I had packed weren't so heavy when I had tried it on at home! On we walked with the hot sun beating on our heads, up one hill and down another. Everyone had loads to carry now, so there was no one to offer to help with my backpack. I began to be afraid that I would never make it, but after two hours someone came to meet us over the hills with a horse. This time when they offered I gladly gave up the pack, and it was tied to the horse. I was so tired that it did not matter to me that the padded straps of my new backpack were not being used the way they were meant to be, but were dangling from the horse's saddle. Many times since then I have warned boys and girls that the load of sin is like the load in my backpack. The longer you carry it, the heavier it gets. This world tries to make sin look attractive, but it is still a heavy load. No matter how "light" your load of sin may feel when you are young, it will get heavier as you grow older. After a while the "foam padding" of pleasure no longer eases the weight of sins. The Lord Jesus came into the world to free you from this load of sin. He Himself carried the load of sin when He was on the cross so that you might be free of your burden forever. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many" (Hebrews 9:28). Oh, that you might today feel the weight of your sins and turn to Christ for salvation. "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

My backpack was the best that money could buy, but it could not keep my load from being heavy when I carried it for a long time. May you accept Christ as your Saviour now while you are young, before the load of sin becomes too heavy for you to carry. "Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:15). "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

~ Unknown Author

Sung Eucharist
7:00 PM

Celebrant:
Rev. J. Paul
Sudhakar

CSI St. Thomas English Church

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*Maundy
Thursday*



“Christ:
The Life-Giving bread”

“Do this in
remembrance of
me.”

Luke 22:19

WORSHIP SERVICE 6th April 2023

Let us worship our Lord through...

Opening Hymn : 105

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Exodus 12: 12- 20

Epistle I Corinthians 11: 23- 29

Responsive Reading Psalm 116

Gospel John 6: 47-58

Announcement

Preparatory Song: The price is paid

Meditation: “Christ: The Life-Giving bread”

Offertory Hymn: 107

Communion Hymns: 58, 80, 144 (NLH)

Prayer

Benediction


Closing Hymn : 109

Collect for Maundy Thursday: Enlivening God, Whose dear Son, on the night before He suffered, instituted the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, who in these holy mysteries gave us a pledge of eternal life. Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully, proclaiming our deliverance from slavery and death, so that, we lift up the cup of salvation, call on Your name and walk before You, in the land of the living. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever more. **Amen.**

<p>Responsive Reading: Psalm 116</p>	<p>I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!” Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. I believed, even when I spoke: “I am greatly afflicted”; I said in my alarm, “All mankind are liars.” What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</p>
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	<p>To make our own For every sin, more than enough He gave And bought our freedom from each guilty stain</p> <p>The price is paid, Alleluia Amazing grace, so strong and sure And so with all my heart My life in every part I live to thank You for the price You paid</p> <p>The price is paid And by that scourging cruel He took our sicknesses as if His own And by His wounds, His body broken there His healing touch may now by faith be known</p>
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Sermon Notes....

<p>Preparatory Song</p> 	<p>The price is paid <i>Graham Kendrick</i></p> <p>The price is paid, come let us enter in To all that Jesus died</p>
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