

# COGA NEWS



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- A Love Like No Other
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



## A Love Like No Other

*Bishop Cecil Reid*

**John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..."**

**Romans 5:8 - "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

Easter is often celebrated with joy—and rightly so. The resurrection is the foundation of our hope. But before the empty tomb, there was a journey. A journey marked by sacrifice, obedience, and a love so deep, so intentional, that it continues to transform lives today.

Matthew 21:9

"Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

As He entered Jerusalem, crowds welcomed Him with praise, laying down palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" It looked like the arrival of a king. But Jesus understood something the crowd did not.



The people saw a king—but not the kind of King Jesus came to be. He was not riding toward an earthly throne.

Jesus knew what was coming.

He was not riding toward a throne. **He was riding toward a cross.**

Every step He took was intentional. Every moment was leading to the **ultimate act of love.**

In the days that followed, Jesus taught, served, and prepared His disciples. He shared a final meal with them, washed their feet, and spoke words of comfort and truth. Even knowing He would be betrayed, denied, and abandoned, He chose to love. That is the heart of Easter.

- *Love that does not turn away.*
- *Love that does not give up.*
- *Love that stays—even when it is not returned.*

In the Garden of Gethsemane, we see the humanity of Jesus so clearly. He prayed with deep anguish, knowing the suffering ahead. Yet He surrendered completely: "Not my will, but Yours be done."

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This is where we see true obedience—not forced, but chosen. The cross was not an accident. It was not a tragedy outside of God’s control. It was the fulfillment of God’s plan to redeem humanity.

### When Jesus was crucified:

- It looked like weakness. But it was actually strength.
- It looked like loss. But it was actually victory in motion.
- It looked like the end. But it was only the beginning.

The message of the cross is deeply personal. It reminds us that we are loved beyond measure. That our mistakes, failures, and sins do not define us. That grace is greater than anything we have done.

Jesus didn’t go to the cross because we deserved it. He went because **He loved us.**

As we reflect during this Easter season, it’s important to slow down and truly consider the weight of that sacrifice. The cross calls us to respond—not just with gratitude, but with surrender.

### What does it mean to follow Christ?

- It means trusting Him, even when the path is difficult.
- It means choosing love, even when it is costly.
- It means laying down our own will and saying, “God, I trust You.”

Easter is not just about celebrating what Jesus did—it’s about allowing His love to transform us.

A love like His changes everything. *Amen*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

TBD

### MAY

SE NW District Convention  
& AYPU Retreat

### JULY *Get Ready for a Blessing!*

2026 Annual Church Growth Conference  
July 13th-17th

Find more information on [www.cogainc.org](http://www.cogainc.org)



## A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- Why is Easter so uplifting? Because Jesus rose to the occasion!
- What’s the strongest message in history? Love... nailed it.
- Easter proves that no situation is too “dead” for God to revive.
- The tomb was empty—but hearts were full!
- God turned the worst Friday into the best Sunday.
- The resurrection is God’s ultimate mic drop.
- Easter: proof that God always has the final say.
- “April showers bring May flowers... and a whole lot of frizzy hair.”
- “I tried to spring clean, but my house said, ‘Let’s not rush into things.’”
- “April is when my allergies remind me I’m made of dust... literally.”

