

**EVANGEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)  
2040 N. WESTRIDGE, WICHITA, KS 67203  
(316) 942-5882**

**E-Mail Address: church@evangelpca.org**

**Web Page: Http://www.evangelpca.org**

**Sunday Worship 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

**Senior Pastor: Donald W. Rackley**

**Associate Pastor: Tim Rackley**

March

2008

Volume 20 No.3

**The Passion Of Patrick**

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland died March 17, 461 AD. That day is now celebrated as St. Patrick's Day. It's a day for the wear-en of the green.

Patrick was born in 389 AD in Britain which was then controlled by Rome. He left three writings: His Confessions; a lengthy letter to Coroticus and a hymn known as The Lorica; (our breastplate) a hymn to Christ.

Patrick's grandfather was a priest in the Celtic Church and his father, Calpurnius was a deacon. He paid little attention to his father's teaching. He describes himself as a, "Rebellious and willful youth, who knew not the true God. He said, he lived for pleasure, fun and excitement."

The Roman garrison protected Britain from the Barbarians to the north and Scotland; (the Picts and the Scots) as well as the fierce pagans who dwelt across The Misty Sea to the west. This was the land of Hibernia; where the Druids, with their live sacrifices and contempt for human life, lived. Today it is called the emerald isle or Ireland.

When he was 16 years old Patrick was taken captive while playing on the beach with two friends. With several hundred others he was taken to Ireland. There they were driven, in chains, 200 miles inland into the forests of Ireland and there Patrick was sold into slavery; "To the unspeakable horrors of slavery" as he called it.

He was sold to a Druid Chieftain who put him to work feeding swine. There he languished for six years. He wrote, "It was while I ate the bitter bread of that hateful servitude in a foreign land, that the light divine broke upon my benighted soul and I called to remembrance the holy things which I had been taught in my dear old home." He recalled his father's words, that there is a true God, a God who cares, and a God who can deliver. He wondered how he might find that God. He remembered the stories about the Son whom the Father had sent into the world; Jesus who had been crucified not for His own sins but for ours. He recalled with regret the waywardness of his life and the sin for which he now felt he was being punished.

He turned with his whole soul to his Redeemer. His heart was transformed and he, there in that dark forest, began to really live. He later escaped and returned to Britain; but he could not forget the darkness of that desperate land. He yearned to take, to them, the Light that illuminated his life.

After 20 years had passed he felt compelled by the call of God to return to the land of his slavery. Having been trained and ordained he set sail for Ireland. There he confronted the Druids with the claims of Christ. He faced their kings and priests and they were overwhelmed with the power of the Gospel. He crossed Ireland many times and God gave great revival. Patrick baptized over 120,000 persons. Three hundred thousand lived there.

Patrick wrote, "I am greatly a debtor to God. What have I done to deserve the grace that has been so bountifully bestowed upon me? When I think of the multitudes who have been born again through my instrumentality and when I think of the vast number of these converts whom the Lord has called to be missionaries and evangelists, I am bowed down with penitence and adoring gratitude. His grace has been wonderful, most wonderful."

Patrick characterized his life in the words of the Apostle Paul, "and now for me, life is Christ." Philippians 1:21