



Messenger Project Newsletter

The Messenger

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A NONPROFIT CORPORATION PROMOTING THE BIBLE THROUGH THE ARTS

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Messenger Notes

Lionel De Leon performed *To Serve (Matthew 20:20)* with Huntington Beach's **Community Bible Church** worship team during the October 29th offertory. The next tentatively scheduled performance will be during the church's annual Christmas Show in December.

Messenger Project plans to start recording basic tracks for our seventh CD as soon as recording dates can be arranged with **Bart Broadnax** (bass) and **Raymond Genovese** (drums).

Jesus in Nature

Because Jesus is the creator of all things, it isn't surprising to find reminders of him in all of creation.



The **Butterfly** represents the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The caterpillar reminds us of the humble man who sacrificed himself on the cross. The chrysalis (cocoon) reminds us of Jesus' three days in the tomb and the butterfly reminds us of his resurrected and glorified body.



The **Sand Dollar** has five slits in its shell that represent the five wounds received by Jesus (pierced hands, feet and side). The central Easter

Lily design has a five-pointed star at its center, which represents the star of Bethlehem that led the magi to the baby Jesus. The back of the sand dollar has an outline of a Poinsettia, the Christmas flower. When the shell is broken open, five replicas of doves are found inside, which represent the Holy Spirit.

The legend of St. Patrick has made the **Shamrock** a symbol of the Trinity. While St. Patrick was witnessing



to new believers, they became angry and demanded that he prove that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one God but three beings. St. Patrick held up a shamrock and asked if he was holding one leaf or three. If three leaves, then why is there only one stem? If one stem, then why are there three leaves? "And if you cannot explain so simple a mystery of the shamrock, how can you hope to understand one so profound as the Holy Trinity?"



Legend says that wood from a **Dogwood** tree was used to crucify Jesus. God decreed that from that day forth, the dogwood tree would never grow large enough to be used to make a

cross. It is a small tree whose flowers have four petals (which make the shape of a cross). The center of the flower resembles the crown of thorns with bright, red clustered fruit in the middle (which represents the blood of Christ). The dogwood blooms in April when Easter Sunday marks the Resurrection.



Pine trees start new growth in the weeks before Easter. As the days get close to Easter Sunday, the tallest shoot will branch off and form a cross. By the time Easter arrives, most pine trees will have small, yellow crosses on all of the tallest shoots.



The **Passion Flower** represents Jesus' crucifixion. It's spiral tendrils symbolize the lash that scourged Jesus and the central flower column symbolizes the pillar where Jesus was scourged. The 72 radial filaments symbolize the crown of thorns. The top three stigmas symbolize the three nails driven into Jesus' hands and feet. The lower five anthers symbolize the five wounds given to Christ. The style symbolizes the sponge used to moisten Jesus' lips with vinegar. The leaves (on some species) symbolize the head of the centurion's spear. The red stains symbolize Jesus' blood.

The round fruit symbolize the world that Jesus came to save and the fragrance symbolizes the spices that the women prepared for Christ's burial.



The **Bear** and **Frog** are symbols of the resurrection because both go into hibernation during the long winter and re-emerge in spring.



The **Basilisk Lizard** is nicknamed the "Jesus Lizard" because when fleeing they can run on top of the water.



The mythical **Unicorn** is pictured as a graceful animal with a horse head, goat beard, lion tail and antelope legs.

The unicorn legend says it evaded all capture but would lay its head in the lap of an undefiled virgin that sits in a forest. This symbolizes Jesus, whom the heavens could not contain, but who humbled himself and was born of a virgin.



The **Easter Lily's** white flowers remind us of the clean new life we can have because of Christ's death and resurrection.



The **Poinsettia** legend claims that a young Mexican girl wanted to give a Christmas gift to Jesus but was very poor. Her cousin said, "I am certain that even the most humble gift, given in love, will be acceptable in his eyes." She gathered a bouquet of weeds and placed them at the feet of a Christ child statue. Miraculously, the weeds became beautiful red flowers, named *Flores de Noche Buena* (Flowers of the Holy Night). The star on the leaf represents the star of Bethlehem and the red symbolizes the blood of male infants killed by Herod (along with the sacrificed blood of Christ).

Symbols of Jesus are everywhere, even in the constellations. We only have to open our eyes.