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# THE WORD

THE HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF CARTERET

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## Become a Warrior

The time has come for all Christians to step into the season of warfare that never ends. This year the season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, on February 10th. During this time we acknowledge our Lord Jesus Christ's 40 days long journey to the wilderness to prepare himself to finish the work that the Heavenly Father, our God assigned to him for the salvation of humanity including you and I.

No one is safe in the perpetual warfare with temptation, until one attains the crown, tells us our Scripture from the Gospel of Matthew in chapter four, where Jesus Christ faces various attempts of evil to turn his back on God, yet Christ stands on solid ground and fights back the dark side. This is the moment, when he becomes from a defender a warrior for our sake until the end of times. With his strength that his faith in the Holy One has galvanized, Christ proceeds forward to start a ministry that contains miracles, suffering, death and victory in the form of resurrection.

It is important for all of us to know that the army of Jesus Christ must endure the very same daily battles with evil. Temptations around us present themselves

comforting, filled with meaning and happiness, while they are rotten from their very root, empty inside and often come with a price that pulls the victim far from God into damnation. We should be encouraged by the example of Jesus Christ to live a simple life, resent the daily temptations of evil, and stand strong through suffering and pain by trusting our God. Let us become warrior of our faith and the kingdom of God by first being good defenders of the kingdom of God at this season of Lent before we can also move on to serve others in the name of Father, Son and the Holy Ghost.



## A törvény és mi

Mostanában sokszor hallhatjuk templombajáró felebarátainktól, hogy nem szeretik, ha a lelkész az Ószövetségből prédikál. Úgy gondolják, hogy a bibliánknak a Jézus Krisztus születése előtti részei már elavultak és nem vonatkoznak ránk, mert a Jézus Krisztus érkezésével, halálával és feltámadásával minden régebbi kapcsolatunk megváltozott Istennel. Mikor ezt és ehhez hasonló gondolatokat hallunk, akkor ne felejtsük el, hogy Jézus azt mondta (Máté 5:17), hogy ne gondoljuk azt, hogy ő azért jött, hogy a törvényt érvénytelenítse, hanem, hogy azt betöltse.

A kezdetektől Isten kifejezte szeretetét irántunk, emberek iránt azzal, hogy számunkra törvényeket teremtett, hogy saját

szeretetünk és tiszteletünk Isten felé egyértelmű lehessen.

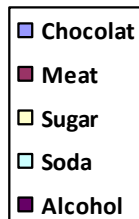
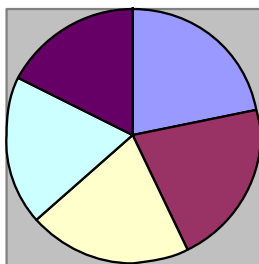
Természetesen ezek a törvények az idők folyamán sokszor úgy lettek alkalmazva, hogy falvakat, városokat, népeket tévesztettek meg és fordítottak el Istentől bűnös kiváltságosok. Jézus Krisztus pedig nem Isten törvényei ellen beszélt, hanem azok ellen, akik Isten törvényeivel visszaéltek és rossz szándékkal használták, illetve alkalmazták őket.

A bibliai törvények három kategóriába csoportosíthatóak: szertartási törvények, polgári törvények és erkölcsi törvények. Ezekből a mai egyház és hívő ember az utolsó kategóriát, az

erkölcsi törvényt követi szinte teljes terjedelemben. A polgári törvényt a világ változásával már nem lehetséges úgy értelmezni és alkalmazni mint Jézus Krisztus idejében. A szertartási törvények pedig valóban, a Jézus Krisztus után sok szempontból teljesen megváltoztak, de alapjaiban mégis megegyeznek az alap szertartási törvényekkel, amik nem szólnak másról, mint imádni, tisztelni a Szent Istent.



## MOST COMMON FOOD ABSTINENSIONS AMONG AMERICANS OBSERVING LENT



Where do you fit? Most American Christians pay attention to Lent by keeping a disciplined diet that reduces some of the comforting elements of eating and drinking.

Te hogyan böjtölsz? Az amerikai keresztyének többsége az étkezés terén próbál önuralmat gyakorolni Böjt idején. Sokan, 30% csokoládét nem esznek, 28% a húst mellőzik, és majdnem egyenlő arányban 24%-26% -ban cukrot, üdítőket és alkoholt nem fogyasztanak a böjti időszakban.

## To Know Where You Are Headed

With proper examination of the bible, we can say that Palm Sunday is the only occasion in Scripture, when Jesus rides on a donkey. On the other hand, we also know that he was part of two other journeys where he was a traveler of the four legged creature. Once and for the first time, when he was within his mother's, Mary's womb heading to Bethlehem with his father Joseph. Then for the second time when his parents were running away from King Herod's men as he ordered his

Palm Sunday was a warm sit on the back of the donkey. It was purposely arriving Jerusalem. The time between his earliest was difficult. People of always looking for a moment to suffering, death by crucifixion people could claim as a worthy



solders to look for the child. and festive time for Jesus to was the opposite of fleeing; Je- among the people of Jerusa- ly travels on a donkey and the power hated him; they were get him. He experienced pain, before he claimed victory that purpose of his life.

Friends let us all discover the true purpose of our lives. During the season of Lent examine the road you took, the places where you have been, and the dwelling place where you are heading. Make a new beginning and ride with Jesus to a resurrection morning with a less and less complicated ride.

## Symbols of Easter, the Easter Bunny

The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday. The exact origins of this mythical mammal are unclear, but rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life. According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in

America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts,

while decorated baskets replaced nests. Additionally, children often left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all his hopping.



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## Easter Season Schedule

Lenten Bible Study, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> - Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> on Wednesdays at 10AM in our Social Hall

Potluck Sunday with Combined English & Hungarian Worship Service on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10AM

Easter Bake Sale on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10AM

Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> Worship Services are held on regular Sunday schedule, 9:30AM English service & 11:15AM Hungarian service

Maundy Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> English Worship Service at 7PM

Good Friday Ecumenical Worship Service March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6PM

Easter Sunday Worship Services are held on regular Sunday schedule, 9:30AM English service & 11:15AM Hungarian service

## Symbols of Easter, the Easter Egg

You won't find them in the Bible, but many cherished Easter traditions have been around for centuries. The most prominent secular symbol of the Christian holiday, the Easter bunny reportedly was introduced to America by the German immigrants who brought over their stories of an egg-laying hare. The decoration of eggs is believed to date back to at least the 13th century, while the rite of the Easter parade has even older roots. Other traditions, such as the consumption of Easter candy, are among the modern additions to the celebration of

this early springtime holiday. Easter is a religious holiday, but some of its customs, such as Easter eggs, are likely linked to pagan traditions. The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century, according to some sources. One explanation for this custom is that

eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.

