

WHY THE CYPRESS?

Some might wonder why we have a picture of a cypress tree on the homepage of our website. Of course, there is a Biblical connection to the cypress tree. There are at least 26 references to cypress trees in Holy Scripture - Moses was commanded to fit the inside of the ark with cypress (Gen. 6:14); many of King David's musical instruments used this type of wood (II Sam. 6:5); in addition to cedar, cypress was used extensively in the building of Solomon's temple (see I & II Kings); many of the prophets used cypress as a metaphor in their communication (see Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and Zechariah). For Church of the Resurrection in Prattville, the cypress has a very different meaning.

On Sunday, April 10, 2022, a small gathering of people met underneath a towering cypress in the backyard of one of our parishioners, and a new church plant was born. That Sunday happened to be Palm Sunday, and several families in the Prattville area met for Evening Prayer, and then congregated on the deck to discuss the formation of a new church in Autauga County. Our first Eucharist service was the following Thursday night, underneath that cypress tree, as we remembered our Saviour Christ's institution of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday. From that point forward, the cypress was forever linked to our formation.

As we were searching for a name for our new congregation, all members were asked to submit suggestions. All of the names were placed in a container, we prayed that God would bless those names submitted, and then one would be drawn from the list. As Providence would have it, Church of the Resurrection was selected. Quite appropriate that that name was drawn as our initial gatherings were in the week leading to Easter. However, one name that was submitted, but not chosen was 'Cypress Church' by one of our youngest members. That tree had such an impact on him that he wanted it to be a part of our identity. Even though that was not the eventual name of the parish, the cypress will forever be linked to our beginning. The vestry thought it fitting that the picture shown in various places on our website, be a part of our church as we move forward.

Even though we are not still gathering for corporate worship under the cypress tree, it's very much a part of who we are and where we are going. As that giant cypress stretches her branches toward the heavens, so to do we stretch forth our hearts and minds to the heavens in the worship of Almighty God. We also pray that we might be a Church where burdened souls might find comfort in the shade of Tree of Life - Jesus Christ our Lord.