



"Bits from Bob" for March 4, 2021

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This Day in History

- 1766 British Parliament repeals the Stamp Act
- 1789 First US Congress meets and declares constitution in effect
- 1793 Washington's second inauguration, shortest speech (133 words)
- 1801 Thomas Jefferson is first president inaugurated in Washington, D.C.
- 1809 James Madison is first president inaugurated in American-made clothes
- 1837 Chicago incorporated as a city
- 1841 Longest presidential inauguration speech (8,443 words), William Henry Harrison
- 1861 Abraham Lincoln inaugurated as sixteenth president
- 1877 Russian Imperial Ballet stages first performance of "Swan Lake" in Moscow.
- 1902 American Automobile Association (AAA) founded in Chicago
- 1918 First cases reported in deadly 1918 flu pandemic
- 1924 "Happy Birthday to You" published by Claydon Sunny
- 1929 Charles Curtis (R-Kansas) becomes first native American VP
- 1933 Frances Perkins becomes Secretary of Labor, first female member of Cabinet
- 1949 Security Council of UN recommends membership for Israel
- 1952 Ernest Hemingway finishes *The Old Man and the Sea*
- 1957 The S&P 500 stock market index introduced, replaces S&P 90
- 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. announces plans for Poor People's Campaign
- 1997 President Clinton bans federally funded human cloning research
- 2005 Martha Stewart is released from prison
- 2018 Ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia Skripal poisoned by nerve agent in England

We'll walk through 2021 with devotions written by Joshua Dubois. Dubois writes a regular column for The Daily Beast and teaches at New York University. He also founded Values Partnerships, which advises leaders in government, business, and the nonprofit sector on faith-based partnerships and religion in the public sphere.

"For Such a Time"

For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." (Esther 4:14)

These are the words of Mordecai to the great biblical heroine Esther, who saved the Jewish people from certain destruction by speaking boldly to her king. "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Who knows? Perhaps we are right here, right now, for a very particular reason. To declare a bold word. To write a brave phrase. To take a new step. To tell a hard truth.

If it is not our time, fine. As Mordecai said in his preface, God's will will still be done. But maybe, just maybe, this is our time. Such a time as this.

Lord, if this is my time, my time to do a new thing, give me the courage to act boldly, unafraid. Amen.

Bad Dad Jokes

- ✓ I'm writing a book about hurricanes and tornadoes...It's only a draft at the moment.
- ✓ What did Mariah Carey say when her boyfriend bought her an undeveloped property so they could build their dream house? "I don't want a lot for Christmas."
- ✓ The genie asked, "What's your first wish?"
Steve replied, "I wish I was rich!"
The genie nodded and said, "What's your second wish?"
Rich exclaimed, "I want lots of money!"
- ✓ My boss came to me at lunch: "Where have you been? I've been trying to find you all morning!"
I shrugged and said: "Good employees are hard to find."

Today's Links

- ✓ Here's a useful article from How-To Geek: ["How to Delete Your Old Online Accounts \(and Why You Should\)."](#)
- ✓ [Follow this link](#) to see what the Internet looked like ten years ago.
- ✓ [This link will take you to an interactive map](#) that will tell you what the number one song is in 3,000 cities around the world. Better yet, most have YouTube links so you can listen to them, too.
- ✓ Read why this teen [set up a prize-winning online fake cosmetics shop](#).
- ✓ California-based startup Orbital Assembly Corporation has announced plans [to begin the construction of the world's first space hotel in 2025](#).
- ✓ Yesterday it was oompah music with a twist. Today, [enjoy J. S. Bach's Cello Suite "Prelude in G" played on a marimba with four mallets](#).



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- ✓ [I sent out a survey via Mail Chimp about resuming the contemporary service at 9:15 AM](#). [Follow this link to add your voice](#). And, yes, I left out an age category. You'll have to tell us if you're in your thirties.
 - ✓ [Zoom worship is at 9:15 AM each Sunday](#). Log in [using this link](#) and meeting ID 815 064 120. You can also dial in at (312) 626 6799 and log in with the meeting ID.
 - ✓ [The next Bible study session will be March 15 at 7 PM and cover Acts 21](#). Plans for now are to meet every other week during Lent and cover one chapter in Acts each session. [Follow this link](#) and log in with meeting ID 846 9061 3289.
 - ✓ [Wednesday night Lenten services start at 7 PM](#). They'll also be carried on Zoom. To join us, [follow this link](#) and use meeting ID 817 6838 2706. Looking ahead, Easter is April 4. Plans are to have our 6:30 AM outdoor sunrise service at the old village cemetery, and a 9 AM outdoor Easter service on the south parking lot.
 - ✓ [We've made arrangements with Shirwin Farms to buy Easter lilies from them at a cost of \\$10 each](#). Order forms will be available at church. [You can also download a fillable PDF here](#). Complete the form, save your changes, and then email it back to the church office at stjucckdesknail@att.net.

- ✓ *Just a reminder*...reservations aren't needed for either Lenten or Sunday morning worship. To this point, overcrowding hasn't been a problem. 😊
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Today's Prayer Concerns

- ✓ *Please pray for all battling COVID and for the healthcare professionals fighting the virus on the frontlines.* Please also hold in prayer all mourning the deaths of loved ones.
- ✓ Ralph Wildy is back home following a stay at Red Bud Regional. He and Vickie are now at Cedarhurst Assisted Living in Waterloo. Their new address is 526 Legacy Drive, Apt. # 19, Waterloo, IL 62298.
- ✓ Jessica Kearns asks that we pray for Ron Mason, a coworker's husband. He's on a vent recovering from a burst blood vessel in his brain.
- ✓ Laura Wildermuth asks that we pray for her cousin Stewart Johnson, in ICU with health complications caused by an aneurysm in his carotid artery. Stewart lost his wife in a car accident, and is the single parent of two girls.
- ✓ Debbie Finch asks that we pray for her cousin, Bridget Lambert, who suffers from Parkinson's and is at the Coulterville nursing home recovering from surgery.
- ✓ Please pray for Harvey Van Buren, who is battling bone cancer.
- ✓ Herb Hentzel is still at Bria Health Services in Belleville, where he's receiving physical therapy. He also recently tested positive for COVID.
- ✓ Please pray for Mary Shoup's brother-in-law, Dave Gaab, recently diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer. There will be a benefit for Dave at the NAIL on March 13.
- ✓ Please pray for Evonne Albert's mother, Louise Bluff, recently diagnosed with breast cancer.
- ✓ Please pray for Don Milligan, husband of New Beginnings' director and St. John member Melinda Milligan. Don faces several operations over the coming weeks, including brain surgery.
- ✓ Sue Kosarek is home, but needs prayers for recovery and strength.
- ✓ Kim Hughes asks our prayers for her niece Sabrina, facing surgery for degenerative back disease.
- ✓ Please hold my cousin David Mehrstens in prayer as his battle with cancer continues.
- ✓ Please pray for Tom Kohnen, Sandy Cummins, and Matt Liefer, all on transplant waiting lists, as well as for Kim Juenger, who is at home but still contending with a number of health issues.
- ✓ Donna Reuss asks our prayers for her cousin, Angie Van Buren, who is still hospitalized.
- ✓ Please pray for the residents, staff, and administrators at all nursing homes, especially those at the New Athens Home for the Aged, as well as at the Freeburg Care Center and Cedar Trails. Pray, too, for the safety of the teachers, administrators, and students at area schools, as well as at our own New Beginnings Daycare.
- ✓ *Here are the folks on this week's congregational prayer calendar:* Bob Rutkowski, Casey and Jennifer Sabaleski and Isaac, Ethan and Levi, Cheryl and Michael Schanuel, Dan and Stephanie Schatte, Morgan and Brandon, Dennis Schatte, Daron Schatte, Davin and Derrick, Drew and Lori Schatte and Demi, Dean and Marilyn Schatte, and Clyde and Deb Scherle.

