

# Good Friday Earth Day to all

April 22, 1970 was declared by United States Senator Gaylord Nelson as a day that is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural surroundings. Since then, environmentalists have used it as both a celebration and awareness to its inhabitants for both the appreciation of what we have and stewardship that goes with it. There are mixed reviews as to whether we have used this day successfully; for its original intention of preserving the environment, but sometimes all the violence that comes with the protest seems contradictory.

Friday, April 3, AD 3 seems to be the official day of the first Good Friday. Finding its origin back to modern Palestine, church history seems to point Golgotha (place of the skull) just outside of old Jerusalem as the original crucifixion site of Christ. The Bible records that darkness came over the earth from noon to 3 p.m., according to the Synoptic Gospels. As a matter of fact, the Prophet Amos predicted that this would happen hundreds of years earlier (Amos 8:8-9). Thanks to modern day astronomy software that understands the math behind the



**Neel Roberts**  
The Sky's the Limit

celestial movements, we are accurately able to recreate this event, which only gives more credence to the truthfulness of the Holy Scriptures!

## **Sky watch for the next month**

The moon will follow 7 Pleides (M45) into the horizon. Keep your eyes on the moon after twilight on April 7, as it'll follow the seven sisters setting into the midnight northwest skyline.

Five planets will be on the rise at 5 a.m. during one of those rare times on April 23. The five planets will be rising with the sun at 5 a.m. Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Venus and Uranus will all be in the same proximity. As a bonus, Neptune will be in the southeast and if you're really perceptive, Pluto is next to the moon in the South. Anybody for a planet marathon?!

M35 (Open Star Cluster) will lead the moon. If you're trying to find M35, focus on the moon after dinner on

April 10 as it'll be pulling it into the horizon on the bottom right as it finally sets around 2:30 a.m. in the southwest hemisphere.

The Lyrid Meteor Shower will occur April 22 and peak at 11 p.m. The shower is not one of the strongest of the annual meteor showers, but you can catch up to 10 meteors per hour between April 16-26. The source of the shower is the periodic Comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher and the best location is just above Cygnus in the northeast-east.

## **Public events for the next month**

The Saturday Observer's Night at the Telescope Farm, which is hosted by the All Star Telescope ([www.all-star-telescope.com](http://www.all-star-telescope.com)) just outside Didsbury, takes place April 30 starting at 9 p.m. and runs until midnight. This full facility telescope dealer has a heated showroom, with refreshments, washrooms and everything is provided for no charge. I am planning to attend and you are welcome to caravan with a group I am assembling, leaving Vulcan around 5 p.m., weather permitting. We stop for a Chinese buffet before heading to the celestial farm for the evening. For further

information contact Ken From at (866)310-8844, or visit [www.all-star-telescope.com/index.php/Observer-Nights.html](http://www.all-star-telescope.com/index.php/Observer-Nights.html).

## **Monthly public stargazing at the Trek Station**

This will be our fourth monthly meeting at the Trek Station and it's wonderful much interest has grown in these gatherings in such a short time. If you've never come, don't hesitate to get involved, as it's a great family event. We'll check out the full moon rising on April 18 at 9 p.m. as we celebrate Earth Day and do a simulated recreation of the Lunar eclipse on the first Good Friday inside. Outdoor gazing to follow, weather permitting. Treats and refreshments are provided free of charge and everyone is welcome. For further information, contact the Trek Station at 403-485-2994, or visit the website [www.vulcantourism.com](http://www.vulcantourism.com), which is updated regularly.

Happy Easter and Earth Day!

*Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at (403) 485-2683 and [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com).*