



First
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The Columns *Online*

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Christian astronaut to pilot first crewed moon mission since 1972

By Victor Glover, *Religion Unplugged*

For the first time in more than 50 years, four humans are set to visit the moon, NASA announced on April 3.

Piloting the 2024 Artemis II mission will be Victor Glover, a Christian who has worshipped with Churches of Christ in the Houston area as well as his home state of California.

A former Navy commander, Glover flew combat missions in Iraq and served as a legislative fellow to the late U.S. Sen. John McCain before joining NASA in 2013.



The Artemis II Crew. Photographer: James Blair

in 2020., Glover was the first Black astronaut assigned to a long-duration mission, serving six months on the International Space Station in 2020.

Accompanying him on the 10-day flight test of NASA's Orion spacecraft next November will be Commander Reid Wiseman and mission specialists Christina Hammock Koch and Jeremy Hansen — the first woman and first Canadian, respectively, to fly a lunar mission.

The last crewed mission to the moon, Apollo 17, took place more than half a century ago, in December 1972. NASA says the Artemis II mission will pave the way for future moon landings and a long-term presence there — and eventually, the first crewed missions to Mars.

“I want to thank God for this amazing opportunity,” Glover said at the Artemis announcement event in Houston. But the celebration is about “so much more than the four names that have been announced,” he added. “We need to celebrate this moment in human history. ...

“I pray that God will bless this mission. But I also pray that we can continue to serve as a source of inspiration, for cooperation and peace — not just between nations but in our own nation.”

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Music Notes for April 23.

For the third Sunday of Easter, the choir will sing *Alleluia No. 1* for the anthem. Donald Fishel (b. 1950) was studying flute at the University of Michigan when he embarked on his career of composition and publication. *Alleluia No. 1* was the first piece written by Fishel, composed in 1971 while a junior at the U. of M. Fishel said the work came to him “rather quickly, in about an hour.” Fishel’s compositions can be found in hymnals in Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, and Roman Catholic churches.



Fishel.



calvin and hobbes



This Week in History.



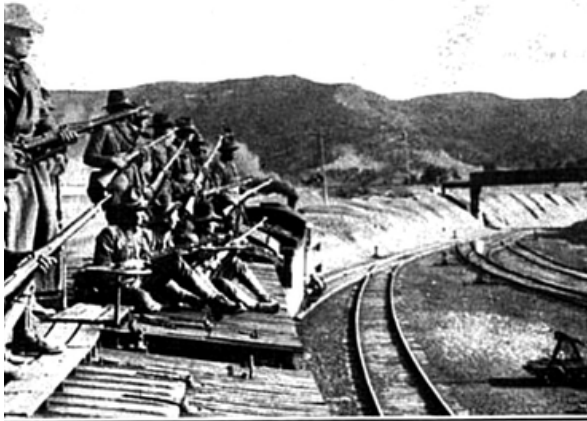
Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin KBE is born in London. Originally a vaudeville comedian, he was discovered by producer Mack Sennett. After moving to Hollywood, he developed the 'Little Tramp' character in classic silent films classics such as *The Kid*, *The Gold Rush*, *City Lights* and *Modern Times*.

April 16, 1899



An Earthquake rocks San Francisco, CA at 5:13 a.m., destroying buildings and starting a massive fire fed by broken gas pipes. The fire raged uncontrollably for three days, resulting in the destruction of over 10,000 acres of property and 4,000 lives lost.

April 18, 1906



MEMBERS OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD ENTERING THE STRIKE DISTRICT

Miners in Ludlow, CO, seeking recognition of their labor union are instead tacked by National Guardsmen paid by the mining company. Five men and a boy were killed by machine gun fire, while 11 children and two women burned to death as the miners' tent colony was destroyed.

April 20, 1865



About 1,400 anti-Castro exiles invade Cuba in a U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Premier Fidel Castro. Trained and guided by the U.S., the exiles landed on the southern coast along the Bay of Pigs. Expecting U.S. air support and assistance from Cuban insurgents, they instead would fight alone against 20,000 Cuban soldiers, to disastrous results. The failed invasion heightened Cold War tensions between Cuba's political ally, Soviet Russia, and the fledgling administration of President John F. Kennedy.

April 17, 1961



At 9:02 a.m., a massive truck-bomb was set off outside the Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, OK. The balst destroyed one side of the building and killed 168, including 19 children.

April 19, 1991

German pilot and Squadron Commander Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen is shot down and killed during the Battle of the Somme. Popularly known as the Red Baron, he is credited with 80 kills in less than two years. His red Fokker Dr 1 Triplane would become an iconic image from World War I.

April 21, 1918



Coinage Act of 1864 is passed, add the phrase "In God We Trust" to all newly minted U.S. coins.

April 22, 1864