

# ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

## Sunday Morning Service and Message



### From Pastor Larry and Carmen Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

*For those who have invited friends and family to join us, we ask that you pass their email address on to Pastor Larry and Carmen at [thedean58@hotmail.com](mailto:thedean58@hotmail.com).*

*We will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning, beginning with the opening prayer and continuing with the service as outlined. This will seem strange and different as we are all so steeped in “visual media”. However, it makes sense when we truly understand and believe God’s word that says “Where two or three gather in My name, there will I be in their midst.”*

*In preparation for the service, we ask that you silence your cell phone, turn off the tv, and let’s just settle ourselves in for our service. Reverently bow your hearts and pray aloud, knowing that in the Holy Spirit there are many familiar faces of brothers and sisters, loved ones and family all around you, praying together, embracing one another and raising collective voices of praise and worship to our Father God and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Think also of those who have gone before and picture them as young and alive, waiting for your entrance into the Kingdom where we will worship God together throughout eternity.*

*If for some reason you are not able to worship at this time, purpose to meet with God at a later time and go through the worship service with Him. When we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. Open your spiritual eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, as the song goes, and the things of this world will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace. Remember we are all together as one body. Please read and sing it all aloud worshipfully. He says that our praise and worship to Him are as a sweet fragrance in the nostrils of God.*

**10:00**

### **WELCOME:**

Good morning to all of my brothers and sisters in Christ. As we come together this morning, please know that Carmen and I have prayed for you and for our service together this morning.

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

Good morning, Father. We, as your children and this body of believers are in our homes physically, but because we all share your precious Holy Spirit, we come before you in unity as a a body of believers. We ask that you would bless each one who has purposed in their heart to take time to sing, read your word, and worship you in spirit and in truth. Lord, we love and praise you and seek your face in this service. Today we ask that you would draw close to us as we draw close to you. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

## **SONG OF WORSHIP:** Gentle Shepherd

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us, For we need You to help us find our way.

Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us, For we need Your strength from day to day.

There's no other we can turn to Who can help us face another day.

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us, For we need You to help us find our way.

(Repeat)

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.

I offered my back to those who beat me.

I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate;

When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

I lay down my life – only to take it up again.

I am the good shepherd.

No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.

## **HYMN OF GATHERING:** What A Friend

What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our Refuge! Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

The peace of Christ be with you all  
And also with you.

(Hug your family☺)

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)**

Father, we come to you this morning with joy and grateful hearts for who you are and for whose you are. We belong to you, Lord, and you are our source for everything...including our next breath. It's in you that we live, move and have our being. Our life is in you. Our strength is in you, and our hope, Father, is in you.

Lord, in Your Word you tell us how much you love us and that Your love has been focused upon us before the worlds were framed. You've chosen us and adopted us into Christ and you see us holy and blameless before You in love. Because You see us through the blood of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you, Father.

Lord, right now you know the needs of all. You are the great physician and know every situation, whether it be physical, mental, emotional or spiritual. We advocate right now for those in need and ask that you would draw close to them with your healing power. We trust You, Lord. Who else could we trust?

Father, we ask also, that you would undertake to heal and protect those touched by this pandemic and it's many ramifications. Lord, give us strength to overcome all fear and uncertainty, and to keep our eyes upon you.

Father, I thank you for this special prayer that Jesus imparted to His disciples...Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever.

**GLORIA PATRI:**

Glory be to the Father, and to the son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end, amen. Amen.

**TODAY'S READING**

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God. Our hearts and minds are open and we are eager to hear.

**A READING OF Mark 14:37, 38**

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

This is the Word of God and a witness of the people. Thanks be to God.

## MESSAGE

Over the past 2,000 years there have undoubtedly, from every standpoint, been a plethora, (I don't get to use that word very often) of sermons and messages regarding the marvelous and very significant events of the last week of Jesus' life before the resurrection.

This morning I would like to do a quick review on a couple of my favorite events that happened in Jerusalem that week. As we go through these events we will end up with the message of which I believe God has laid on my heart.

Together, let's just take a look, as we touch on these events, at the human side of Jesus. We know that He was fully God, but He was also fully man. In His life on earth He would have experienced joy, sadness, pain, disappointment, emotional stress, tension, and all of the characteristics of a human being. He also was tempted in every way we as men are tempted, but in His case without sin. So let's think from a human standpoint how much He must have suffered.

### The Triumphal Entrance

Early on Palm Sunday morning, Jesus and His disciples left Bethany where they had spent the night with His close friends, Lazarus, Mary and Martha. They walked toward Jerusalem which was about two miles from Bethany. Just before their arrival, Jesus sent two of His disciples on ahead to look for a donkey with its colt which had never been ridden. They were told to untie them and bring them to him. They did so and Jesus rode the young donkey in through the gates of the city... in the most humble way...a King of peace.

Had He come in on a horse, it would have been as a Triumphal warrior. This fulfilled the prophecy from Ezekiel 9:9 hundreds of years before this day. "Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The people cut palm branches and spread them along the road ahead of him. The multitude cried out saying: "Hosanna (adoration, praise and joy) unto the son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Along the way, some of the Pharisees called to him from the crowd, "**Teacher, rebuke your disciples!**" But Jesus, with righteous indignation (my words) turned, and with the crowd noise in the background, shouted to them "**I tell you that if these should keep silent, the very stones would immediately cry out!!**"

### Jesus Purges the Temple

The next day, Jesus went into the temple of God and found those that sold oxen and sheep and doves and the changers of money sitting there. Jesus immediately made a whip out of cords, and with much righteous indignation, He charged forward with whip flying and began picking up and tipping over the tables. Feathers flew as birds and animals began to squawk and shriek and money was scattered everywhere all over the floor. He undoubtedly shouted to them as He drove them out of the temple. "**It is written, that my house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves!!**"

Let's think about that a moment. Here's Jesus Christ with no fear. He was a strong young man in His prime at 33 yrs. Old. He walked all the time and was used to doing carpentry labor. He was undoubtedly physically fit, and at that moment, He was the opposite of happy, and **nobody** dared mess with him. As a Son, He purged the temple of His Father.

Further that week we see other well known scriptures of Jesus' last week before the cross

- A. Jesus' authority was questioned.
- B. Jesus is tested about tax payment.
- C. The scribes are confounded.
- D. Jesus talks about end times.
- E. Judas conspires to betray Jesus.

### **The Last Supper**

"Now the feast of unleavened bread drew near, which was called Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill him, for they feared the people". They were also looking for a way to cover their tracks.

That's when Satan entered Judas Iscariot, who at that point had somehow lost His focus on Jesus. He was one of the twelve that Jesus loved, taught and shared life with for three years.

Leaving the others He conferred with the high priests and the temple guards about how He might betray Jesus to them. They were happy and offered him 30 pieces of silver.

So, the day of unleavened bread came, the day the Passover lamb would be killed. Jesus tells Peter and John that "a man carrying a jar of water will show them a large upper room, and it would be furnished for their meal." There would have been facilities to prepare food, a table to seat 13 and cushions for them to recline on as they ate.

Jesus said, "With fervent desire, I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." Of course Jesus knew what was about to happen. He was to be the Passover Lamb that would be slain as a sacrifice for our sins once and for all. He instructed them on the purpose of the bread and the cup and how it was to be taken in memory of him until the next time they would eat together in the kingdom of God.

After supper, Jesus stood up and laid aside His garments, took a towel and wrapped it around himself. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciple's dusty, dirty feet. He sat down again and said: "I have given you an example. So if I, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. What I've done...you do."

Every time I think about this scene, I think about Jesus' love for us. He knew when He began washing the feet of His disciples, that He would wash Judas's feet as well. Here's His trusted disciple who for three years shared life with Jesus. Judas saw Jesus lovingly heal many people; He observed the feeding of 5000 people with five loaves and two fish. He even saw Jesus raise people from the dead. At some point he must have

known that Jesus truly was the son of God. But it seemed at some point that in his heart He lost His focus on God and the devil took him over. To me, it was almost like when Jesus washed Judas's feet, He was symbolically washing the feet of His lifelong adversary Satan, whom He knew very well. He also knew that the devil was laughing.

Don't you feel that during this Easter season when Christians have always come together to worship and praise our risen Savior, that the enemy is laughing right now at our inability to physically come together as a body of believers all around the world. There is a Hebrew word called 'gumzalatova.' It means that 'what the devil plans for evil, God will turn it to good.' In Isaiah 59:19 God says, "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall raise up a standard against him."

This morning, my specific message that I believe God has laid on my heart, begins right now.

### **Could You Not Watch And Pray One Hour?**

After the last supper, Jesus and His disciples made a short walk across the Kidron valley to the Garden of Gethsemane. They followed him in and He said to them, "Sit here while I pray."

**Note:** I don't recall any time mentioned in the scriptures where Jesus needed His disciples personally to pray with and for him. He had never needed them as He did right now. He took His three closest companions, Peter, James and John with him, and He began to be exceedingly troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch."

He went a little further, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, this cup might pass from him. And He said, "Abba Daddy, all things are possible for you. Take this cup away."

**Note:** in the first part of this message I mentioned the fact that He was fully God, but He was also fully man. He felt exactly as we do when our bodies are injured or our minds are exceedingly troubled. Many of us, men and women can identify with these feelings and can almost imagine and understand His utter anguish and agony at that point, of knowing that unless His father would make another way for him, **He soon would be tortured to death!**

**Note:** most all of His life Jesus had been talking and sharing His deepest thoughts with His father. And He knew full well how much His father loved and cared for Him. Further He knew that God could do anything and He prayed that His father would take Him out of this.

Then Jesus came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "**Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**"

"Again He went away and prayed, and spoke to His father the same words. And when He returned, He found them asleep again; for their eyes were heavy, and they did not know what to answer Him."

Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough. The hour has come; behold, the Son of man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

**Note:** At that moment He grasps the full realization that this was His father's plan. He would be brought before the government, severely whipped, humiliated, spit upon, and nailed to a wooden cross and would hang there until He died. But, He was totally obedient, no matter what the outcome would be. His will now was to accomplish the plan and will of His Father.

Jesus knew the power of prayer and shared His feelings with His closest companions. It says that He began to be troubled and deeply distressed, and then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to the death." I believe Jesus wanted and needed their prayers.

In recent Sunday messages I have been stressing that during this "time out" that has been forced upon us, we have a perfect opportunity to build unity and intimacy with our loved ones at home. Our lives are busy and sometimes hectic and we spend most of our days with our job families, our phone families, etc. and end up with relatively little quality time to share with God and our home family.

We have all heard the old adage that "the family that prays together, stays together." I believe that by praying together and keeping God at the center of our family life, our relationships can be changed for the better. Praying for and with each other is a powerful tool to build relationships, to restore relationships and also to improve our relationship with God. It can change the whole climate of our home.

Friends, how many times have we earnestly, fervently prayed for a wife, husband, or child that they could change for some reason. God can change them and He can change us. But, when we humbly come and sit together and pray, sing and praise God as a family and together ask for His help, we will sense His presence and begin to see a change for the good in our lives.

Jesus asked His disciples to watch and pray. Three times He looked for those three chosen ones to accompany him in prayer and found they had immediately gone to sleep. He was saying, stay by me, pray and watch with me. The man Jesus seemed to be needing human friendship and support at a time when He appeared to feel helpless. He was left awake and alone.

Knowing how important prayer is; how many times at night do we start out praying to God and in the middle of a sentence fall asleep, or our mind flies into some other realm? How many of us pray for 15 minutes straight? How many for 30 minutes; how many can come to God and pray for an hour? That was what Jesus wanted from His best friends in His time of need.

Today, if you are involved in this time of praying, worship and studying God's word, I challenge each of us to finish the service notes and either together or alone...stay in God's presence and pray on to at least complete one hour.

Our goal could be to go to our prayer closet every day and spend one hour with God. I believe our lives could be changed. There may be some reading this who are already meeting or surpassing this challenge. But for those of us who are not, I want us to listen

within our Spirit to hear God's voice speaking to Peter, "Could you not watch and pray with me for one hour?"

### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

### **HYMN FOR THE JOURNEY – Holy, Holy, Holy.**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God Almighty  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee  
Holy, holy, holy, Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea,  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy Though the darkness hide Thee  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God Almighty  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea  
Holy, holy, holy Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons blessed Trinity

### **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He cause His face to shine upon you. May He lift up His countenance unto you, and give you peace. Amen

**WE LOVE EACH OF YOU; MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU IN THE COMING WEEK!**

Pastor Larry and Carmen