

Sunday Morning Service and Message



**From Pastor Larry and Carmen
Sunday, May 17, 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.

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.”

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!

Carmen and I hope that you have decided to be with us in spirit this morning as we of this church body gather at the same time to pray and worship our Lord, reading His Word and singing songs to Him. If you do not worship at this same time, we pray that you also will be blessed as you read through this message.

OPENING PRAYER:

Father, we come to You at this time to praise and magnify Your name, to worship You in spirit and in truth, to come before You with joyful singing. Lord, this morning we enter into Your gates with thanksgiving for every good and perfect gift that comes from You. Lord, we ask that You anoint our time together and draw us closer to You. Help us to leave with a clearer understanding of You and Your Word. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SONG OF WORSHIP: I'd rather have Jesus

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold, I'd rather be His than have riches untold.
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land, I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.

Chorus:

Than to be the king of a vast domain or be held in sins dread sway
I'd rather have Jesus than anything, This world affords today.

I'd rather have Jesus than vain applause, I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause.
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame, I'd rather be true to His holy name.

Chorus

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Hymnal): Christian Conduct

Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, not on earthly things.

For your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self,

Which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Christ is all, and is in all.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom,

And as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed,

Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:1-3, 5a, 9-10, 11b, 12-17

HYMN OF GATHERING: Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Chorus:

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.


Chorus:

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Chorus:

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, help us to always remember we are here for Your pleasure. You are almighty God, You are the Sovereign One who has created everything in and beyond this universe. Lord, that knowledge is way too far above our understanding. Lord, help us each day to utilize whatever skills and talents with which You have blessed us. Father, Your Word says that You have plans for our lives, to prosper us and not harm us, to give us hope and a future. Lord, help us to plug into Your purpose for our lives. We want to be right smack dab in the middle of Your will and accomplish those things that You have in mind for us to do.

This morning we lift up before You those who have been adversely affected by this virus. Help us to stay strong as we go through this time in our lives. Lord, our life is in You, our strength is in You and our hope is in You. Thank You, Father. And we also thank You for the prayer that Jesus taught us. 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. Amen.

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 FROM GOD'S WORD: Phil. 2:1-10

“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests but also for the interests of others.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.”

MESSAGE:

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS KINDNESS

“Loving-kindness has converted more sinners than either zeal, eloquence or learning.”
Keith L. Brooks

Definition of kindness: Useful moral excellence of character or demeanor, gracious, gentle, a quality and characteristic of Jesus of being loving, friendly, generous, considerate, caring.

Titus 3:4-5: But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 4:32 Be ye kind, one to another; tender-hearted, forgiving one another. Even as God, for Christ's sake has forgiven you.

Acts 28:2: And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.

Acts 9:36: At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.

Rom. 2:4: Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Col. 3:12: Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

Prov. 3:3: Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,

Micah 5:8: But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, And of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

Phil. 2:4: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

I want to start off by saying that this characteristic of Jesus is one with which we definitely want to be identified. I think it is the byproduct of love. Someone said that faith is a fact and faith is an act. We act out God's love as we live out our lives. Brothers and sisters, we are the body of Christ. Jesus left us with the responsibility to be His hands and His feet and His mouth here on earth. He set the example that we're to follow.

Let me ask a question. How can we live as God wants us to live, how can we be pleasing to God, if we don't even know what He expects of us? We learn that from His Word to us, His children. People, I pray that we all are striving to be firmly established and grounded in the Word of God!

One of my very favorite Scriptures tells us exactly how Jesus feels about acting upon the spirit of kindness, and how it pleases Him. I want every one of us this morning who reads this, to grasp, grasp, fully grasp the significance of this Scripture. It is so easy and yet most people fail to see it. Many people in this world today are lovers of themselves. It's all about them. What's in it for me? I am not happy unless everything is going just right for me. I don't have to put up with that inconvenience. I don't have to help them. What have they ever done for me? And on and on, the big me -- little you.

We need to know this Scripture (Matthew 25:31-46) and live our lives daily, applying these following principles. I know that some of you do this.

"But when the son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His Glorious Throne. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

Then the king will say to those on His right, Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me, drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me in. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or naked and clothed You, and see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?

And the king will answer and say to them, truly I say to you, when you did it to the least of these my brethren, then you did it to Me.

Then He will say to those on the left, depart from me accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and His angels.

For I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you didn't invite Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me; sick and in prison, and you did not visit Me.

Then they themselves will also answer, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of You?

Then He will answer them saying, truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Wow!! Is that not powerful? Is that not descriptive of what we need to do and to be for others? I don't want to be counted with the goats. Do you?

When I was a boy, I was hotly pursuing my Eagle Scout award. I loved everything about scouting from the camping out to the things we learned and accomplished with merit badges. Each level inspired me to continue on until at 16 I received my Eagle Scout and God and Country Awards.

Much of what Jesus is talking about in Matthew 25, I was taught in scouting. I remember one time on a camping trip we were in the woods working on merit badges, etc. Our assignment was to follow a trail that led us with Indian signs. In other words, there would be things like rocks together in a certain way that would be a directional sign. Also, sticks positioned in a special way meant something else. So, as we walked through the woods looking for the signs, we entered a clearing which led back to camp and there was one of our leaders gathering wood. As we approached, he was struggling with a pretty sizable log, which would be used for us to sit on around the council fire that night. He was trying to get it up on his shoulder. We stood there and finally one of the boys...not me... left the group and went over to help him carry it to the camp. That night at the council fire, he was called forward in front of the whole troop and given an award, for seeing someone in need and helping him. It was all set up as a test. One boy passed. Our Boy Scout slogan was to “do a good turn daily”.

So, let's think about this. Jesus said clearly, when we do it for one of the least of these, it's the same as if we were doing it for Him. So, you mean that if we drive to Springfield to the hospital to visit someone from our church or neighborhood, it's the same as if Jesus was there and we went to visit Him? That's exactly what it says to me. Let's say we visit someone in a nursing home Do you know, before COVID 19 that you could go into most any nursing home and ask the director for the name of someone who is not being visited by anyone, and then visit them? Maybe share the Lord with them. Maybe read them Scripture, or pray with them. Maybe just draw them out to share with you things that were important to them in their lives. They've done studies of the elderly and asked them what was important at this moment in their lives. Number one on the list was for someone to listen to them.

To carry it further, every day, if we look around, being sensitive to someone who needs something, whatever it is and however we can help them, and we do it, it's the same as if we were doing it for Jesus.

Let's say you're sitting in a restaurant eating lunch and you see out the window a car pull into the parking area. You watch as an elderly man or woman begin the process of pushing their door open, gathering up their walker, and with difficulty setting it out and then limp up to the door. Why not anticipate their difficulty getting the door open, moving through it to the inside door

and going through that again. Then standing in line waiting to order. If we are sensitive to the needs of others we would be at the door to help them and even placing their order for them while they take a seat. This is just one small example. There are thousands of needs out there waiting for an act of kindness, no matter how small. We are doing it for that person and for Jesus. We need to get out of ourselves and watch and anticipate the needs of others.

After COVID19, let's go visit someone in the hospital, let's go to the nursing home, let's let another person in line, smile, wave, say a kind word, do acts of kindness every day. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Let's sow seeds of kindness every day and Jesus will notice them all...and He will be pleased.

We need to devote ourselves to looking for ways to do good every day.

Next week: The Fruit of the Spirit Is Goodness

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: I Feel Like Traveling On

My heav'nly home is bright and fair, I feel like traveling on;
Nor pain nor death can enter there, I feel like traveling on.

Chorus:

Yes, I feel like traveling on, I feel like traveling on;
My heav'nly home is bright and fair, I feel like traveling on.

Its glitt'ring towers the sun outshine, I feel like traveling on;
That heav'nly mansion shall be mine, I feel like traveling on.

Chorus:

Let others seek a home below, I feel like traveling on;
Which flames devour, or waves o'erflow, I feel like traveling on.

Chorus:

The Lord has been so good to me, I feel like traveling on;
Until that blessed home I see, I feel like traveling on.

Chorus:

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

Christian brothers and sisters, no matter our situation in life or how old we are, always remember...we have a marvelous future ahead of us! Keep the faith, stay the course and carry on bravely.

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

Pastor Larry and Carmen

