



St. John's Christian Church

The Church on the Corner
whose Cornerstone is Christ

St. John's Christian Church ~ May 3, 2020 Third Sunday after Easter Order of Worship

Welcome

Scripture and Prayer – Hebrews 13:15 (NIV)

“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise -- the fruit of lips that confess his name.”

Opening Songs

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
Praise Him! Praise Him!
“He Leadeth Me”

Children's Faith Object Lesson – “A Fine Collection – Part 2”

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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.

A Faith Object Lesson – “Expecting the Expected”

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ ¹² “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ ¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

Sermon

“The Kingdom of Heaven”

Prayer and Benediction

Prayer Concerns

- Larry Kinsman had heart valve replacement surgery on Wednesday.
 - Susie Spiess continues recovering at Rupp Rehab.
 - Dale VonDeylen continues through his chemo treatments.
 - Sandy Miller continues through her chemo treatments
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Preaching – Pastor Erich Christman

Accompanist – Lynne Christman

Song Leaders – Andrew Rohrs

Video Tech – Sarah Nafziger

Discovery Guide Devotions

May 4 – Humbling the Proud	Daniel 4:19-37
May 5 – Knowing is not Enough!	Daniel 5
May 6 – Committed or Complacent?	Daniel 6
May 7 – History’s Secret	Daniel 7:1-14
May 8 – The End is Nigh – or is It?	Daniel 7:15-28
May 9 – Pray Like a Prophet	Daniel 9:1-19
May 10 – True or False	Psalms 52

Pastoral Prayer – Sunday, May 3

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh (2 Corinthians 4:7-11).”

Father, first and foremost we pray: save those who are spiritually lost. This is a far more pressing need than anything else on our hearts and minds. Even as we grieve the coronavirus crisis, and how it has adversely affected many lives (including our own), as Christians we know all our suffering has an expiration date. One day you will come and wipe away all our tears, cure us from all ailments forever, and banish disease and death from us for all eternity. Yet some do not have this same hope. In fact, some are in danger of a fate far worse than sickness, suffering, loneliness, isolation, and death. Some are in danger of the eternal fires of hell. So we pray: save the lost!

We pray especially for the lost who are sick. Lord, grant this confrontation with their own mortality to be a wake-up call to the things of eternity. Grant them saving faith in Jesus before it is too late.

Now for Christians and other-than-Christian people, for all who are sick, we pray: in your great mercy, O Lord, grant relief from suffering, healing from sickness, and restore their health.

For Christians who are sick or suffering greatly, Lord, we pray for patience. It can be tempting for us facing hardships not only to grieve, but also to despair. Yet in Christ, we can grieve as those who have

hope. In our suffering, grant that we might embody the words of 2 Corinthians 4: grant that we might face our suffering without fear, knowing that in Christ nothing can destroy us, as God is sustaining us and renewing us through all our trials. Even more, help us see our suffering as another opportunity to glorify you. Yes, we can glorify you in our health, as we give you praise for the gifts of life and every good thing. But we can also glorify you in our sickness and death, as we value you higher than all your gifts, even our own life, and praise you in every circumstance. We pray simply, Lord: in our health and our sickness, in our life and our death, be glorified in us! In Jesus' name, amen.

Please Pray for:

- **Nursing Home Employees and Residents:** Gary & Sandy Frazier have asked for prayers for Heather's mother-in-law, Elaine Greenlee, who lives in a nursing home and has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- **CCNO Employees and Inmates:** Especially now that COVID-19 has surfaced at the jail (employees include Kim Hines and Mike DeVries (Bob and Carol's son))
- **Medical Personnel and Patients:** Tiffany Johnston (Jon and Deb Rupp's daughter)

Song Lyrics

For the Beauty of the Earth

Verse 1

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies

Chorus

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

Verse 2

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light

Verse 3

For the joy of ear and eye
For the heart and mind's delight
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight

Verse 4

For the joy of human love
Brother sister parent child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild

Verse 5

For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love

Verse 6

For Thyself best gift divine
To the world so freely given
For that great great love of Thine
Peace on earth and joy in heaven

Verse 7

For the martyrs' crown of light
For Thy prophets' eagle eye
For Thy bold confessors' might
For the lips of infancy

Verse 8

For Thy virgins' robes of snow
For Thy maiden mother mild
For Thyself with hearts aglow
Jesus victim undefiled

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Praise Him! Praise Him!**Verse 1**

Praise Him praise Him Jesus our blessed Redeemer
Sing O earth His wonderful love proclaim
Hail Him hail Him highest archangels in glory
Strength and honor give to His holy name
Like a shepherd Jesus will guard His children
In His arms He carries them all day long

Chorus

Praise Him praise Him Tell of His excellent greatness Praise Him
praise Him Ever in joyful song

Verse 2

Praise Him praise Him Jesus our blessed Redeemer
For our sins He suffered and bled and died
He our Rock our hope of eternal salvation
Hail Him hail Him Jesus the Crucified
Sound His praises Jesus who bore our sorrows
Love unbounded wonderful deep and strong

Verse 3

Praise Him praise Him Jesus our blessed Redeemer
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring
Jesus Savior reigneth forever and ever
Crown Him crown Him Prophet and Priest and King
Christ is coming over the world victorious
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.

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He Leadeth Me**Verse 1**

He leadeth me O blessed thought
O words with heavenly comfort fraught
Whate'er I do where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me

Chorus

He leadeth me He leadeth me
By His own hand He leadeth me
His faithful follower I would be
For by His hand He leadeth me

Verse 2

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom
By water's calm o'er troubled sea
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me

Verse 3

Lord I would clasp Thy hand in mine
Nor ever murmur nor repine
Content whatever lot I see
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me

Verse 4

And when my task on earth is done
When by Thy grace the victory's won
E'en death's cold waves I would not flee
Since Thou through Jordan leadeth me

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