



Lord's Day February 28, 2021 Corporate Worship

Announcements

Jordan Williams

Birthdays: Kristopher, Sunday 28th

Anniversaries: none

Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Wednesdays at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Elder Keith will email a direct link to our services at least 30 minutes prior to starting. Please text the email addresses of your guests to Elder Keith at least 30 minutes prior to the service. We kindly ask that you eliminate all background noises and personal discussions during our Zoom meetings. Such distractions may result in your feed being muted by the host.

Our 2021 Preaching and Teaching Focus

As stated at our January beginning of year meeting, our teaching and preaching focus for this year is:

The Role of the Church and the Life of the Christian:

includes the church as a covenant community; the vital importance of corporate worship; preparation for death and heaven; and so on.

The Necessity of Authentic Heavenly-mindedness:

covers the reaffirmation of God as our heavenly Father; the theological and practical significance of the Beatific Vision; the priority of the spiritual and transcendent over the material and earthly; and so on.

We have begun and will continue incorporating these priorities in our instruction. This is in partial fulfillment of the pastoral responsibility to present the glorious riches of the mysteries of the gospel "which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.**" Colossians 1:27-29. [Emphasis ours].

Women's Book Club

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, March 20 via zoom when we will be studying pages 19-44 of Jen Wilkin's *In His Image: 10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect His Character***. Let's start preparing early in order to have an exceedingly fruitful study. "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, ..! Num 11:29. Thank you.

Reflections on the Church

“In short, in the whole divinely appointed institutions and ordinances of the Christian society we see the provision made for, and the obligation laid upon, His disciples to be joined together into one outward body, and to form a common society of professing believers. That community is one, therefore, of Divine institution; and in the duty laid upon them, not as a matter of choice, but of express command, to become members of it, we see the ordinance of God for the existence and permanent establishment of a Church on earth. **A solitary Christian is seen to be a contradiction in terms**, if you view merely his faith as a principle of affinity naturally destined to draw to it the faith of other believers. **A solitary Christian is worse than a contradiction, he is an anomaly, standing out against the express institution of God, which has appointed the fellowship of believers in one Church**, and made provision in its outward ordinances for their union and edification. **The Christian society is a kingdom, set up by express Divine appointment**, and differs from every other society on earth in this remarkable fact, that the builder and maker of it is God.” James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ: A Treatise on the Nature, Powers, Ordinances, Discipline, and Government of the Christian Church*, vol. 1, pp. 20-21. [Our emphasis].

African-American History Month

In honor of this important celebration, Jarrett Williams will now provide us with us some meaningful insight into the life and work of **Lemuel Haynes, 1753-1833**.

Prelude

Lisa Tolbert

Entrance into God's Presence With Reverence and Awe Hebrews 12:28

Call to Worship

Revelation 4:1

Pastor Michael Leach

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this

Prayer of Invocation and Praise

Pastor Michael Leach

Hymn of Praise

“The Day of Resurrection”

Congregation

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From this world to the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection-light;
And, listening to his accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
Let earth her song begin;
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Invisible and visible,
Their notes let all things blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

Creedal Affirmation

The Nicene Creed

Congregation

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, through whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy, catholic* and apostolic church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

*Catholic means the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is CHRISTIAN- composed of those professing faith in God through Jesus Christ alone; UNIVERSAL-transcending nationality, race and geographic boundaries; and TIMELESS-- comprising believers from every age.

Gloria Patri

Congregation

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.

Contrition for Sin

The Reading of the Law

Deuteronomy 28:1-5, 15-19

Elder Keith Tolbert

And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out... "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Adapted from the "Family Prayers" of
Henry Law

Elder Keith Tolbert

Holy Father, we blush to lift up our eyes unto You, O God of all grace and love. Shame and confusion of face humble us to the very dust. Wherever You have been boundless in mercy, we have been abundant in sin! We cannot measure our ingratitude. We cannot estimate our vileness. Each day has added to our guilt. Each scene has witnessed our wicked hearts, our straying feet and our offending tongues. What is there in heaven or in earth, above, around, without, or within--which condemns us not?

The sun condemns us, which has seen our misdeeds; the darkness, too, which hides nothing from Your all-penetrating eye! **The cruel accuser justly accuses us.** Your righteous law, Your holy Word, our sin-soiled consciences, our public and our private hours --write dark things against us! **We make no denial. We frame no excuse. We confess, Father, that we have sinned against heaven and before You--and are not worthy to be called Your sons!** Wash us afresh with the blood of Jesus Christ and pardon our iniquity. Restore our eyes of faith that we may behold Christ afresh as the Lamb that was slain for the sin of the world and who was raised for our justification. Through Christ and by his Spirit we pray. Amen. [Emphasis in original].

Silent Prayer of Confession

Congregation

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2:24

Elder Keith Tolbert

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Hymn of Thanksgiving

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

Congregation

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
The victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun: Alleluia!

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst;
But Christ their legions hath dispersed;
Let shouts of holy joy outburst: Alleluia!

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped;
He rises glorious from the dead;
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell;
The bars from heaven's high portals fell;
Let hymns of praise His triumphs tell! Alleluia!

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death's dread sting Thy servants free,
That we may live, and sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Reading of the Gospel

Romans 10: 6-11

Elder Keith Tolbert

But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

Instruction in the Faith

The Westminster Confession of Faith, V.1. Of Providence. Pastor Michael Leach

God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, (Heb. 1:3) direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, (Dan. 4:34–35, Ps. 135:6, Acts 17:25–26,28) from the greatest even to the least, (Matt. 10:29–31) by His most wise and holy providence, (Prov. 15:3, Ps. 104:24, Ps. 145:17) according to His infallible foreknowledge, (Acts 15:18, Ps. 94:8–11) and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, (Eph. 1:11) to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy. (Isa. 63:14, Eph. 3:10, Rom. 9:17, Gen. 45:7, Ps. 145:7).

Prayer of Intercession

Pastor Michael Leach

That Our Heavenly Father Would Grant Us:

A renewed vision of himself, enthroned in majesty, glorious in power, and splendid in holiness.

The reassurance of the Triune God as our only comfort in life and in death.

A fear of our holy God as we worship him in Spirit and truth and as we serve our neighbor in love.

That Our Holy Father Would Ensure:

The integrity, justice, and righteousness of all public officials, especially during these unsettling times.

Physical and spiritual healing to Marcus.

That Our Covenant God Would Provide:

Guidance, mercy, and comfort, to the Williams family during these challenging times.

Strength, comfort, encouragement, and support to the Yancy family during this trying season.

Continuing protection and direction to the Byrds who have resumed missionary service overseas.

Ongoing care and protection to John and Charlene during their ministry in volatile conditions.

Power, mercy, and compassion in stopping the Coronavirus.

Healing to those infected with the Coronavirus and ongoing safety to "frontline" workers.

Comfort, consolation, peace, salvation, and the assurance of his Presence to Tamecia and her family during their period of bereavement.

Psalm of Preparation

“Psalm 26”

Congregation

Judge me, O Lord, for I have walked
In mine integrity:
I trusted also in the Lord;
Slide therefore shall not I.

Examine me, and do me prove;
Try heart and reins, O God:
For thy love is before mine eyes,
Thy truth's paths I have trod.

With persons vain I have not sat,
Nor with dissemblers gone:
The assembly of ill men I hate;
To sit with such I shun.

Mine hands in innocence, O Lord,
I'll wash and purify;
So to thine holy altar go
And compass it will I:

That I with voice of thanksgiving
May publish and declare,
And tell of all thy mighty works,
That great and wondrous are.

The habitation of thy house,
Lord, I have loved well;
Yea, in that place I do delight
Where doth thine honour dwell.

With sinners gather not my soul,
And such as blood would spill:
Whose hands devices mischievous,
Whose right hand bribes do fill.

But as for me, I will walk on
In mine integrity:
Do thou redeem me, and, O Lord,
Be merciful to me.

My foot upon an even place
Doth stand with steadfastness:
Within the congregations I
Jehovah's name will bless.

The Ministry of the Word

Pastor Michael Leach

Sermon Series: **The Gospel of Mark**
Sermon Title: **The Danger of Unfaithfulness**
Sermon Text: **Mark 11:12-14, 20-25**

2 lessons

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|------------|--|--------------|
| I. | THE CURSING OF THE FRUITLESS TREE | 12-14 |
| A. | THE REASONABLE EXPECTATION | 12, 13 |
| 1. | The Sad Disappointment | 12, 13a, b |
| 2. | The Skeptical Defense | 13c |
| 3. | The Straightforward Details | 12-14 |
| B. | THE RIGHTEOUS EXECUTION | 14 |
| C. | THE RICHER EXPLANATION | 13, 14 |
| 1. | The Performed Parable | |
| 2. | The Pending Peril | |
| II. | ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR A FAITHFUL TESTIMONY | 20-25 |
| A. | PUNISHMENT FOR FAITHLESSNESS | 20, 21 |
| 1. | The Discernment We Are to Develop | |
| 2. | The Danger We Are to Dread | |

B.	PRAYING IN FAITH	23, 24
1.	In the Divine Person	
2.	In the Divine Power	
C.	PRIORITY OF FORGIVENESS	25
1.	Its Command	
2.	Its Condition	

Hymn of Response

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

Congregation

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as Thou shalt choose.

The Ministry of Giving

Offertory
Offertory Prayer

Individual Families, Members
Kyle Tolbert

Dismissal

Hymn of Parting

“Soon and Very Soon”

Congregation

No more crying there- we are going to see the King!
No more crying there- we are going to see the King!
No more crying there- we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

No more dying there- we are going to see the King!
No more dying there- we are going to see the King!
No more dying there- we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

Doxology

Congregation

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

Benediction

1 Peter 5:10-11

Pastor Michael Leach

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Charis Kai Irene Humin

Grace and Peace to You

Congregation