



TRUE LIGHT

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

April 26, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30AM
Worship.....10:15AM
Worship.....5:00PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
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*"This is the day the Lord
has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it."*

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

WHEN LIFE IS UNFAIR!

If you have listened to children play, sooner or later you have heard them say - sometimes rather loudly - "That's not fair!" They often have a sense of fairness that revolves around what they want and when they want it. Children want the world tilted in their favor. Anything other than what they wish - if they don't win a game, if they don't get to play with their favorite toy, if they don't get to do what they want when they want it - is unfair. (If we are honest, those of us who are supposed to be adults feel much the same!)

God's chosen people, the Hebrews - also called Israelites - knew oppressive unfairness in Egypt. Joseph had brought his family to Egypt, where they were treated royally, at first. Joseph, who had been brought to Egypt unjustly, became God's agent of God's blessing to Egypt and all the rest of the nearby world. He had predicted the great famine and was put in charge first to conserve Egypt's blessed harvests. Then, during the famine, his wise preservation of grain fed Egypt and the world.

Over time, however, the Pharaohs forgot their promises to the Hebrews. They refused to see the Israelites as a blessing. The Egyptians resented these foreigners among them and began to oppress them in cruel slavery. The Egyptians wanted the world tilted in their favor, and they had the power to tilt their world to favor only them. For hundreds of years, God's people were oppressed and abused in slave labor.

Our world isn't fair. Our role in this unfair world is to join God in living differently.

None of us likes to be treated unfairly, whether we are children or adults. No human has the right to enslave another human being. We understand this kind of unfairness. But there are all sorts of bondage and slavery. Sin, addiction, poverty, lack of education, crushing debt, chronic illness, bias, racism, and famine are all forms of oppression that people can face in our world. God's people today can also face persecution because of the hostility of some governments toward Christians. What are we supposed to do in these situations? How are we to handle them?

God's great story of redemption reminds us of three truths that we must take with us as we live in a world that always seems to tilt away from fairness.

1. **God did not forget his people in the past during their times of suffering.** As we will see with the Hebrews and their oppression in Egypt, God heard, saw, and knew about the suffering of his people, so he came down to help them through Moses (Exodus 3: 6-10). Throughout the story of the Bible, our great God came down to help his people using human deliverers to do his will. If God brought deliverance for them, then, we can trust that he sees, hears and knows our struggles today. We can trust that our help is on its way and that every nation, every ruler, and all people one day will bow to honor God's Messiah, our Christ, and Savior, Jesus (Philippians 2:10-11). We can trust that God is faithful because we know his long story of faithfulness from stories like Moses and the Exodus from Egypt. We can hang on to the promise that God will never abandon us (Romans 8:32-39).
2. **God has given us principles that we can live during troubled times.** When we face suffering, oppression, and unfairness, we can turn to the Scriptures to know how to live in difficult times. While the story of Moses and the Exodus is exciting and inspiring, we are told less about how we are to live during these tough times. However, in the New Testament, the letter of 1 Peter and the book of Revelation are written to help us know how to endure, to live as God's holy people, to hang onto hope, and to live in ways that bring God's blessing in the middle of our unfairness. Our role isn't just to be faithful, but it is also to bring God's blessing to those around us. Notice what Peter told Christians facing persecution and unfairness:

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God (1 Peter 3:15-18).

3. **God wants us to bring his deliverance and his kingdom values to life on earth today.** As we will recall, God did deliver his people from the brutal oppression of Pharaoh and the Egyptians and other oppressors who came later. Once God's people were delivered, the LORD gave them his Law, and he had principles they must obey about how they treated others. God's deliverance of his people from oppression was not so that they could oppress their enemies. God wanted his people to treat others differently. He made clear that those who were vulnerable, those who were facing other kinds of oppression - like widows, the fatherless, foreigners, and the poor in the land - were treated kindly and fairly (Deuteronomy 10:18; 24:17-21). Jesus reiterated what God had told his people through Moses:

Continued on back

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

April 27 - Amelia Garner
April 29 - Scott Flannery
April 30 - Steve Burch
May 2 - Celia McGowan
Annabelle Shelton

OUR RECORD FOR LAST WEEK

Contribution - \$ 4615

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Cold Cereal * Rubber Gloves * All
Fabric Bleach * Aluminum Foil *
Non-aerosol Bathroom Cleaner *
Bottled Apple Juice

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal * canned spaghetti sauce *
crackers * canned vegetables
Monetary donations are appreciated.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36

Remember: Helen McGowan has begun dialysis treatment * Johnny and Diane Dauck, Stan's brother and sister-in-law, have both been diagnosed with COVID 19. Johnny is on oxygen as he also has some pneumonia and is being treated for pancreatitis. Diane was unable to have a scheduled scope due to the COVID 19 diagnosis * Guy Gibson, husband of Michal Woods' cousin, is in a Nashville Hospital in ICU with COVID 19 and has had some small improvements * Jennifer Adams' COVID test came back negative; she was diagnosed with bronchitis * Pansy Zimmerman continues to decline * Sharlette Watson

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * John David Barnett * David Bureson * Pam Claeys * Billie Cooper * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Morris Karnes * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Pansy Zimmerman

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Kristi Altman * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Carole Eubanks * Bill Fitzpatrick * Kim Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Phil McKuIn * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Donnie Rawlings * Gerald Robertson * Deanna Rogers * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Megan Brenna * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Renee Goodman *Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Sonja Mays * Alvin Miller * Tom Provance * Gene Rowland * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner

Our Shut Ins

Lois McKuIn * Marty Watson * Joy Watson * Elwood Rush * Sue Flowers * Travis Cooper * Shirley Johnson * Fern Botsch

For the time being, Amy will be in the office on Fridays from about 8:30 to 1 or 1:30 and will be available to assist you with getting communion supplies or dropping off your contribution. She will come to your vehicle if you would prefer not to leave it. Also, if you are in need of any other supplies please let us know and we will do our best to help fill that need.

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to Jeremy McGarity in the sudden passing of his father, Dennis McGarity, who died Thursday. Jeremy and Caroline worshiped with us for several years.

Rejoice!

We are rejoicing with Ronnie Mays, who recently made the decision to come back to the Lord. *Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.* (Luke 15:10)

Continued from front:

Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 19:19; 22:39). To God's people, we pledge to value others and treat others as he would, bringing the principles of heaven down to earth as we seek to live out God's kingdom and its righteous character and gracious compassion in our world, now (Matthew 6:10,33).

Our children are right about our world in declaring, "That's not fair!" Our world isn't fair. Our role in this unfair world is to join God in living differently. We are here to be the LORD's agents of a higher principle than fairness. We are here in this world to be God's agents of redemption.

James Nored and Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

FOUR RULES FOR HAPPINESS

1. Depend on God. *Jeremiah 10:23, Psalm 23:4, 2 Cor. 4:8-9, 2 Cor. 4: 16-17*
2. Accept your lot. *Philippians 4: 11-13*
3. Live in the present. *Matthew 6:34*
4. Aim for worthwhile achievement. *Philippians 3: 13-14*



KEEP ON GOING

One step won't take you very far;
You've got to keep on walking.

One word won't tell folks who you
are;
You've got to keep on talking.

One inch won't make you very
tall;
You've got to keep on growing.

One little deed won't do it all;
You've got to keep on going.
Author unknown

Your companions are like buttons on an elevator: they will either take you up or they will take you down. ***Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.'*** (1 Corinthians 15:33)