



TRUE LIGHT

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

December 6, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship:
8:45 a.m. (masked)

10:30 a.m. (masks optional)

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
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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**

UNLIKELY HEROES WHO SACRIFICE

Peter confessed Jesus as the Messiah; then, he rebuked the Lord for not being the right kind of Messiah:

[Jesus] then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him (Mark 8:3`-32).

Sometimes in our human nature, our flesh wants heroes whom we deem are worthy of being our heroes. We want triumphant, powerful, confident, and commanding heroes. These fleshly-imagined heroes are commanding and always in control of their emotions. Most of all, they are never fearful. They can look at death in the eye and not bat an eyelash, break a sweat, or nudge their resting heart rate.

We want heroes who are not us, and maybe those who are beyond us - something more than the rest of us mere mortals. Someone we can depend upon when we can't depend upon anyone else, and certainly when we can't rely upon ourselves.

Jesus was not that kind of hero. He wasn't Peter's kind of Messiah. He certainly wasn't the Messiah other people wanted. Like us, like Peter, their flesh yearned for a mighty conqueror who would slay their enemies. Jesus made clear to Peter, and to us, he would not be that kind of hero:

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (Mark 8:33).

Ouch! Peter's false hero, his flesh-desired hero, wasn't God's plan. As we read Jesus' words, the Holy Spirit is nudging us to ask ourselves: Why? Why is such a mighty warrior, our flesh-desired hero, not a God-inspired hero? Why was Jesus so disgusted by Peter's response?

Our answer lies deep within us. In the holiest part of us, the part of us that is still divinely human, we yearn for a different kind of hero, a self-sacrificing hero. Our hearts resonate with this kind of hero because such a hero carries the stamp of the divine. Stories of such self-sacrificing heroes find their deepest fulfillment in the Messiah-story of Jesus.

Our hero, Jesus, didn't enter the world triumphantly. A young peasant girl from Nazareth carried him in her womb. She gave birth to him in the most normal of ways, yet in the messiness of a most inappropriate place. Jesus' first bed was a place where animals fed. Even as a young child, our hero had to be rescued from a maniacal king. Herod murdered babies, trying to rid himself of any possible rival to his throne.

This messiness and violence were where the story of our hero, our Messiah, began. His earthly life would also be messy and end violently. Jesus did not live like any fleshly-desired hero we know. Instead, he was altogether different, yet at the same time, he shared so much in common with each of us. On the surface, Jesus' style of heroism was ridiculous and offensive. Over the centuries, however, his life has had the power to reach into us and touch where the divine part of us lives:

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

...
Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength (1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25).

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CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

December 9 - Sharlette Watson
December 10 - Ryleigh Foster
Lana Shipman
December 13 - Jennifer Hampton
Daniel Moore



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 8 - Stan and Sue Flowers

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Dry Spaghetti * Chili Mixes *
Large Freezer Bags * Microwave
Popcorn * Kidney Beans * Ranch style
beans

Pick Up Date February 1

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal * Crackers * Canned Spaghetti
Sauce * Rice * Dried Beans
Monetary gifts also appreciated

Continued from front:

Jesus was probably not born this time of year. Most of us know this by now. Historically, it is too cold and the weather too unstable for shepherds to be out in their fields and Magi to begin their long journey to a foreign land. More importantly, there is too much "holly jolly Christmas" and consumer frenzy for a self-sacrificing hero, like Jesus, to be born around this time. Or, is there any time culturally or emotionally for Jesus to be born into a weary, worn, and harried world caught up in disease, bad economies, racial tension, and political strife. Such a world would be inhospitable, even hostile, to the Servant of the LORD to be born.

We can find the real Jesus this time of year if we listen to that touch of the truly Divine One inside us. It's that part of us that lies beneath our flesh's instant gratification that so often clouds our sight. If we listen to our hearts, we can still hear the cry of Jesus from his lowly manger, freshly delivered from heaven's glory through the body of Mary into our fractured world. We can thrill with lowly shepherds who are the first to receive the angelic announcement of good tidings of great joy. We can feel Joseph's concern as he steals away his little family to Egypt after a troubling dream as this step-daddy tries to frustrate Herod's rising hatred wanting to extinguish a rival freshly born. We can be stirred by the excitement of outsiders willing to journey to welcome God's King born in a foreign land that would likely refuse to welcome them.

Each of those stories that surrounded Jesus' birth and earliest years of life is filled with sacrifice and risk, adventure and concern, weariness, and hope. When we recognize their theme of self-sacrifice, they touch our hearts even more profoundly. So, let's tune in to that deeper part of ourselves that yearns for such a hero and model and Savior. Let's give thanks for a hero who was one of us yet somehow rose above the flesh's power to corrupt our motives and confuse our passions. Let's remember the true nature of our Savior, Lord, Messiah, and King. And, let's choose to live like him and those who welcomed him. Let's be servants.

Jesus is the hero that resonates with the Godlikeness within us. In this special divine place inside us, we recognize the self-sacrificing Messiah. This sacrificial Messiah is the real Jesus. He saves us from our flesh for God's higher calling: a calling to be like Jesus in our fallen world!

James Nored and Phil Ware, www.heartlight.org

Attendance for November 29: 69

Contribution for November 29: \$3379

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: **Morris Karnes** as he begins his treatments * **Pam Claeys** will have a port put in Thursday to begin treatments * **Jesse Shelton** had an emergency appendectomy Tuesday and is recovering at home * **Ronnie Mays** as he begins treatment * **Wanda Thomason** home from hospital after being admitted for COVID * all our members still recovering from the after-effects of COVID

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * Morris Karnes * Ronnie Mays * Sonja Mays * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Kim Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Angie Smith * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead

Our Shut Ins

Marty Watson * Joy Watson * Elwood Rush * Sue Flowers * Travis Cooper * Shirley Johnson * Fern Botsch * Pam Claeys * Bettie Thurston

In Sympathy: Sympathy is extended to the family of our sister, *Lois McKuin, who passed away November 27. A private service was held for her December 1.*

A Note of Thanks:

Dear church family,
Thank you for all the cards, calls, texts, food and hugs when we said an earthly good-bye to Ron's dad, Bob. He lived his whole life in preparation for eternal destination with his Creator and his Savior.

We are proud to be part of the family here at Bernie that knows how to show their love. Again, thank you beyond measure

Ron, Julie, Alex, Sam, Nicole, Charlie and America Garner

Now is the time to be praying for our
Friends and Family
Weekend

with BRAD HARRUB!

January 2 and 3, 2021*

*subject to change

