



TRUE LIGHT

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

February 28, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship:

8:45 a.m. (masked)

Sunday School 9:50 a.m.

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**

MY CHILD, GET UP!

Most of our earth-bound explanations are shallow and trite in the face of life's harshest realities.

Few tragedies wound with as much trauma and inflict such deep sorrow as the death of a child. Indeed, every death of someone close to us can rattle us down to our marrow. However, something about the death of a child dismantles our strength. It challenges the faith of even the strongest of Jesus' followers.

I still hear the wailing sorrow of a dear friend being told her son had died. I watched this past Sunday as a sweet friend held an aged mother as she shook with grief after losing her adult son unexpectedly. I have felt the bitter chill of a nasty, wet, early spring north wind as it gouged empty canyons into the grief-stricken hearts of a young couple as they buried their baby boy. Losing a child is unspeakably hard. Such a death mocks us in its unfairness of parents having to bury children. Everything in us cries that children should bury parents.

Maybe that is why I am touched so personally by John's account of Jesus' words to Mary from the cross:

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home (John 19:25-27).

These words are poignant and touching. They reach across the centuries and put a human face on the cross's tragic and brutal nature. This story reminds me that the crucifixion is more than a story about an obedient and divine Son submitting to the will of the Almighty God, his Father. The cross is also a story of a mother and her beloved son. Mary's boy was savagely beaten, repeatedly mocked, openly ridiculed, and physically tortured and humiliated until he died. Through Mary's eyes, a little of God's pain becomes real. We can imagine the pain of a mother losing her son. God's grief becomes a little more comprehensible to us through the agony of Mary.

For me, the Lord's tenderness with his mother at his death makes two of Jesus' resurrection miracles all the more poignant. Jesus' raising of Jairus' twelve-year-old daughter is as emotionally moving to me as a parent, as the miracle seems so simple for Jesus to accomplish.

While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher anymore." Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed." When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and at once, she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened (Luke 8:49-56).

I love the phrase, "My child, get up!" I am reminded of a close friend who was deaf and has now gone home to the Lord. In his excitement and confidence, my friend looked forward to the day that he would meet Jesus. He often told us before his death, "The next voice I will hear is Jesus' voice. The first words I hear will be Jesus saying, 'Lloyd, it's time to get up and come home with me!'"

I also love Jesus' tenderness with the widow at Nain. She is left all alone in a hard world with even harder grief when her only son dies. Luke chooses beautifully simple language to emphasize Jesus' compassion for the mom as he deals with the death of her son with little fuss and great tenderness:

Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her.

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CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

March 8 - Esau Forman
Joy Greer
March 14 - David Billingsley
Kim Flowers
Ted Mason



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

March 11 - Jerry and Janie Burleson

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Cleaning Supplies (non-aerosol) * Furniture Polish * Grape Juice (bottled) * Small Freezer Bags * Spaghetti Sauce * Taco/Burrito Mixes
PICK-UP DATE APRIL 26

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

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

Continued from front:

When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said. Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, get up." Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother (Luke 7:11-15 NLT).

What a precious way to describe such a life-changing moment: *Jesus gave him back to his mother.* Oh, how every parent who has lost a child to death could experience such sweet grace!

Attendance for February 28: 90

Contribution for February 28: \$4500

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: David Burleson received his COVID vaccine and has been experiencing side effects * Randy English had carotid artery surgery Thursday and is doing well * Pauline and Sonny Allen remain at Cypress Pointe, room 24, and would appreciate cards and notes of encouragement * Mike Duley has been diagnosed with bursitis in his hip and arthritis in his shoulder. He is also having some issues with his back * Don Jackson continues to have trouble with his knee, and will be meeting with his doctors to discuss options * Jerry Don McGowan has been moved to Winchester Place *

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 * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * 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 * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Charles Powell * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Diana Gavel * Jerry Grimes * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Paul Maddox * Brenda Robinson * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead * Eva Latham

Our Shut Ins

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

Inspiration 2021

March 12-13

Dexter church of Christ

"Living and Defending the Faith"

With guest speaker

Eric Lyons from Apologetics Press

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to Ginger Beaird in the death of her step-father, Johnny Grimes, who passed away March 1. His funeral was held Thursday in Dexter.

NAMES IN THE BIBLE WORD SCRAMBLE

1. SHAAII _____
2. JSDUA _____
3. NAWDER _____
4. BAMRAHA _____
5. RAACHZAIH _____
6. CHIMA _____
7. CJBAO _____
8. ENTPESH _____
9. UDSEDATH _____
10. SESUJ _____

I don't have the right words or any simple answers for parents who bury children. I hope I am like the dear Christian brother who looked into the aged mother's eyes Sunday. Then, he lovingly said, "I am sorry. We love you. We hurt with you. Your group of friends will stand by you." Then without trying to explain, he hugged her, listened to her some more as she described her shock and pain. Then, he held her shoulders and told her gently and tenderly what he had said to reassure her earlier. A moment later, he hugged her again and let her tears fall on his shoulder as her shaking subsided.

We don't have easy answers. Most of our earth-bound explanations run up against death's realities and come off shallow and trite. Love listens and holds and helps until the broken-hearted parent is ready to throw their questions in "the deep pool of unknowingness." All the while, they are trusting that one day Jesus will come and take their child by the hand and say, "Get up, my child!"

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS

Years ago, my son Josh and I were making our way up a mountain trail when we spied a cloud of dust rising in the air. We crept forward and discovered a badger busy making a den in a dirt bank. He had his head and shoulders in the hole and was vigorously digging with his front paws and kicking the dirt out of the hole with his hind feet. He was so invested in his work he didn't hear us.

I couldn't resist and prodded him from behind with a long stick lying nearby. I didn't hurt the badger, but he leaped straight up in the air and turned toward us. Josh and I set new world records for the hundred-yard dash.

I learned something from my brashness: Sometimes it's best not to poke around in other people's business. That's especially true in relationships with fellow believers in Jesus. The apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to "make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands" (1 Thess. 4:11). We're to pray for others and seek by God's grace to share the Scriptures, and occasionally we may be called to offer a gentle word of correction. But learning to live a quiet life and not meddling into other's lives is important. It becomes an example to those who are now outside God's family (v12). Our calling is to "love each other" (v9).

David H. Roper