



TRUE LIGHT

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

April 17, 2022

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :

9:30 a.m.

Worship:

10:15 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

Wayne Reams
Joe Watson
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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**

SEED, TOWEL, PROMISE & TORCHLIGHT: THE PROMISE

The four items of our focus - The Seed, the Towel, the Promise, and the Torchlight - seem so ordinary, so simple. These four items were part of the day-to-day world of Jesus. He often used the example of a seed in his teaching. A towel was part of the mandatory washing before meals in Jewish society. God's promise was the currency of the Jewish faith. Torchlight was all they had to drive the darkness away. Four common things from Jesus' world become four key witnesses to Jesus and his glory. Today, we look at Torchlight!

[After his time with his disciples in the upper room] *Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees. Judas, the betrayer, knew this place because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. They arrived at the olive grove with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons (John 18: 1-3).*

Four simple, ordinary things from Jesus' world should mean everything to us. We need to pause and listen long enough to their stories to know the power of the seed, the towel, the promise, and the Torchlight. Jesus' journey toward his destiny in Jerusalem brings us to the last of these: Torchlight.

To our modern sensibilities, Torchlight feels primal and mysterious, even foreboding. On this night, torchlight was all of these and more. Evil flickered in its shadows. Betrayal rustled in the shuffling footsteps as the band of soldiers stomped its way into a quiet place of prayer in an olive grove. These unwanted invaders were led by Judas, one of Jesus' own. Yes, one of their own led hell's invasion of Jesus' place of prayer.

So much feels wrong, warped, and weird about this story lit only by Torchlight. Soldiers interrupted Jesus in his place of prayer. Judas used the flickering Torchlight and the cloak of darkness to misuse a symbol of love to sell out his Savior. Jesus' lead disciple even reached for a sword, then used it. Jesus wouldn't allow this violent action taken to protect him. He healed the injured man and warned his disciples against such violence. Without fear, he presented himself to those who came to arrest him. However, the soldiers in charge fell back in fear when Jesus offered himself for arrest by declaring himself, "I AM."

One thing, however, is consistent with the story of Torchlight and its companion stories of the seed, the towel, and the promise. Despite Jesus' impending abandonment, torture, crucifixion, and death, his first thought was to protect and care for those he loved. *I am the one you want, let these others go!* he declared. Once the others, his beloved disciples, were safe, he offered himself to them to be bound and led away. Our torchlight story makes clear that he had the power to stop all that happened. He chose not to do so for his beloved disciples and for us.

As followers of Jesus, the cross Jesus chose redefines for us what God has always been doing in the world. God is about us ... protecting us ... saving us ... giving himself up for us while only asking that we return his love. Even then, God gives us a choice to love or reject him.

The seed, towel, promise, and Torchlight are a quartet of stories that make clear our gut-level understanding of God's purpose in the cross. Hate, hell, and death have no power over the love of God. Demonic power seeks darkness. This time, however, darkness loses. The flickering shadows of the Torchlight allowed evil to lurk in all the dark places around Jesus. That darkness also seeped into the hearts of those so intent on getting rid of him. But, John reminds us, darkness lost to Jesus and the light he came to be and to bring: *The Word [Jesus] gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it (John 1:4-5).*

Darkness lost when Jesus rose from the dead on the Sunday after his death. We believe that. But, Torchlight reminds us of a more profound truth an overwhelming defeat of darkness that we might miss. If we linger with the Lord and listen as he endures his Passion we hear the song of God's love. As darkness enveloped his band of men and women on the night he was betrayed, Jesus demonstrated his love again and again. Jesus' actions - from the foot-washing to loving words of reassurance to his promised to them and on to his protection of them during his arrest - all remind us that God's love is stronger than death. Jesus' sacrificial love defeats and disarms the power of hell, making a public spectacle of the demons, evil intent, and the devil's plans in his cross (Colossians 2:15).

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BAPTISM

We rejoice with our new brother in Christ, Larry Layton, who put on the Lord in baptism Monday. Welcome to the family, Larry!

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

April 17 - Jon Neely
April 20 - Nicole Garner
April 21 - James & Janet Wood (A)
April 24 - LaRhonda Billingsley
Kalyrn Traw



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Dried Onions * Dishwashing Detergent * Trail Mix * Freezer Bags (2 Gallon) * Tissues (ie Kleenex) * Toilet Paper
Pick-up date: June 13

WILLING TO SERVE

April 17, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Jonathan Simmons
Closing Prayer.....Cameron Traw

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

April 24, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Cameron Traw
Opening Prayer.....Darrin Shipman
Scripture.....Justin Allen
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Jeff Rodgers

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Wayne Reams
Scripture.....David Carson
Dismissal.....Jess Lecroy

Continued from front:

Jesus had the power to overwhelm the soldiers, their meager power, and their dim Torchlight. Legions of angels were ready. The soldiers fell back in fear when Jesus uttered his simple, *I AM!* betrayed their powerlessness. Jesus' willingness to love his own above himself controlled the crowds, the soldiers, and politicians. Their abuses, scorn, and murder were no match for his own - his love for us.

Our hearts will cringe as we journey through the last days with the Lord in his Passion. We will recoil at the abuse Jesus suffered and the way he died. However, we must never forget: Jesus' love is in control of this story. He chose the cross. They could not force it upon him. He chose the thorns, the nails, and the scorn to protect his disciples - both those with him in the olive grove and those of us who love him still today. He chose to be arrested under Torchlight to save them and us from human hate, hell's fury, and death's certainty that lurked in the shadows. He absorbed all the darkness of those shadows while the light of his love for us never dimmed. With Jesus' arrest under Torchlight, the end for darkness' reign drew near.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though some might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God (Romans 5:6-11).

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Attendance for April 10: 90
Contribution for April 10: \$5497



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Remember: **Mary Barnett** is in room 206 at Aspire Nursing Home in Malden. Visitors are requested * **Jerel Jester** received 2 units of blood Tuesday, and is scheduled for a blood tracing procedure this Wednesday * **Judy Snyder's** EKG came back good, and she is much better * **Kristi Altman's** cancer has spread to her brain, and she is not doing well * **Woody Wood** waiting on results from a PET scan and biopsy * **Janet Wood** at home, waiting for knee replacement surgery * **Mike Duly** continues to have issues from a foot injury several months ago * **Marty Watson** is waiting to be transferred to the Veteran's Home in Jackson * **Louella Akers** has been unable to have her treatments recently, but is feeling better and hopes to continue them soon*

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 * Don Jackson * Sonja Mays * Curtis McClard * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Gunner Townsend * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Chris Daley * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers-Noe (not doing well) * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * Patricia Greninger * Neal Halford * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Linda Morgan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Jodi Claeys * Ruth Dauck * Jerry Grimes * Katie Hicks * Grant Howard * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Shug Lee * Jerry Don McGowan * Baby Owen * Brenda Robinson * Gene Rowland * Beth Schwendemann and family * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead * Eva Latham

Our Shut Ins

Louella Akers * Fern Botsch * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Sonja Mays * Reba Owens * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

Looking Ahead

TODAY: potluck-style Easter dinner following morning worship.

There will be no Fellowship Meal this week. Meals will resume April 27.

Austin Holiman will be our guest speaker April 24 for both services.

Risco High School graduation April 29 at 6 p.m. in the gymnasium. Our Risco Graduate is Maura Thomason.

Open House for Maura Thomason April 30 from 11:30-3 at the Community Center in Risco. Everyone is invited to attend - come hungry!

Eddie Cloer from Truth for Today will be our guest speaker Sunday morning, May 1

Ladies are requested to wear a hat Sunday, May 8, in honor of Mother's Day and their ancestors. If you would like to participate and are in need of a hat, please see Trish Baldwin.

Ladies Lunch Out May 10 at 11:30 at the Airways Café in Dexter. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

Senior Recognition Sunday will be May 15, following evening worship. Our seniors this year are Avery Caroline Neely and Maura Thomason.

Dexter High School Graduation May 22. Our Dexter graduate is Avery Caroline Neely.

