

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

September 9, 2020

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL NELSON

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and don't depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Sometimes we try to make life so difficult by being overly independent rather than interdependent. We think we can do everything on our own if we just work hard enough or are smart enough. But the truth is we are never enough without walking alongside our creator who made heaven and earth. May we relax and take it easy as we turn our lives over to the care of God. We need to do the footwork and God will do the rest. This is not being lazy; this is being a faithful child of God.

SCRIPTURES FOR SERVICE:

Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-13

The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

First Impressions from Last Week's Worship Services

Thank you, dear members, for worshipping this past weekend! Whether on-line or in-person*, the LORD is worthy of praise and honor for his sustained and steadfast love. We are journeying together in this stage, using the phrase repeated in scripture as people walked together in faith. We took one step last weekend, and we will continue the combination of on-line and in-person worship through September. Special thanks for all the volunteers who make this church work so well! I want to thank you for cooperating with others as a means of fulfilling the commandment to "love one another". We will need to stay focused on maintaining safety in our physical distancing and use of masks. My first impression of our work together is we still love to worship together, in both ways, and that the reintroduction of communion was meaningful. While the in-person service was "quiet" with no singing nor prayer responses to limit aerosols, the beauty of God's word with Dr. James Gerber's musical skills made it a meaningful experience.

What are your first impressions? What are you thinking and feeling these days regarding our worship life? I encourage you to send me an email or call sharing your perspective, so I can keep a pulse on things during these unprecedented days. Together, walking in faith, we are the church! Thanks be to God for his sustained and steadfast love!

Love,
Pastor Lowell
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* Please note, you must call in or go online to register for EACH service you wish to attend by noon the Friday prior to service.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR ALC WORSHIP SERVICES

1. Call the church at 623-974-2512 or register online at www.alcsuncity.org by NOON the FRIDAY prior to service. EVERY PERSON ATTENDING MUST BE REGISTERED AS THERE IS A LIMIT OF 50 PEOPLE.
2. On the Welcome page, click on the link listed below the service you want to attend.
3. You will be redirected to another page, Realm. Input your information: first and last name, email, and phone number.
4. Click Next.
5. On the page that loads, click on ADD A GUEST if there is anyone else that will go with you; OR each person can register separately.
6. Click Next.
7. Ensure the information is correct on the screen. If so, click Next again.
8. Click Register and you are done. You will receive a confirmation email from Realm.

WITNESSING COOPERATION

Pastor's theme for this past Sunday service was "Cooperation". Cooperation can be defined as working together for a common goal. At the very heart of cooperation is love and respect. If you were at public service, you were able to witness cooperation; if you were not able to attend, let me tell you about it.

As you know, we had a Re-opening Committee headed up by Bob Wecker. The Committee divided into teams for ushers, greeters, registration greeters, and cleaners. Each team had either a captain or co-captains. The teams discussed their duties and worked together for a safe and healthy re-opening. They even had a "dress rehearsal". We would not have been able to re-open without the assistance of the members of each team. We would not have been able to re-open without the coordination of Toni Molck and Dave Tigges who coordinated volunteers, made signs, and ordered supplies and equipment. We would not have been able to have communion without the work from the Altar Guild. The introduction of Dr. James Gerber and his music was wonderful (I especially loved the postlude). Thanks to all who made this work!

It was great to see smiles on the faces of people who were able to return. After all, we hadn't seen them in almost 6 months! We all wore masks entering and exiting the sanctuary, and we all did our best to practice social distancing. We can't wait to begin to see more people return...but you must be your own judge on your comfort level. It sure was great to get back together for worship!

We all cooperated and our goal of reopening for public worship in a safe and healthy way was accomplished. Thank you to all who were able to attend and be a part of and witness cooperation. Rest assured, we will continue to practice cooperation as more and more people continue to return for public worship.

Stay safe and healthy. I can't wait to see you!

Terri Polk, ALC Council President

