



THE CHRISTIAN ALERT
March 21, 2021

This week we conclude our Lenten look at the Lord's Prayer considering the final ascription of praise: "for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen." They are words rich with meaning, serving as a final fanfare to express a joyous confidence as we close our prayer.

However, there is danger in praying these words. It's the danger of employing richly expressive terms we have mentally defined, yet have not fully embraced. Such grandiose concepts as "kingdom," "power," and "glory" can easily trip off our tongues without registering any meaning for our living. We may become enthralled with the beauty of the words to such a degree that we fail to grapple with the substance lying beneath them. This final phrase is more than pretty words with which we compliment God. These are dynamic words that directly affect the way we are to live.

The tragic element within the celebration of the first Palm Sunday, and resulting events of the day following, reveal our need to get in touch with the reality behind these words of praise. We recall the Palm Sunday crowd also voiced its ascription of praise as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. But what did those praises really mean? In the days of Passion Week, Jesus brought their words into focus and when the specifics were spelled out, there were many whose abstract Hosannas turned into forceful cries to "Crucify him!"

This Sunday, on the threshold of Holy Week, we gather to embrace life in God's kingdom of peace, where power is defined by the might of a humble servant, and glory shines from a rugged cross. I hope you will be with us for worship.



24 HOUR AT HOME PRAYER VIGIL

Please join in our 24 hour at home prayer vigil on Thursday, April 1st time slots will be available by signing up online using the google form that has been emailed and texted, or you can find the link on our web page or facebook. If you are more comfortable calling to schedule your time, you can contact Jerry Hixenbaugh at 234-600-9434.

The prayer vigil will begin Thursday, April 1st at 8:30 pm, and ending at 8:30 pm on Friday, April 2nd. Time slots are 30 minutes each.

10:30 am WORSHIP In-Person and livestream on Facebook

www.championchristianchurch.org

March 28, 2021- Pastor Ken

Scripture: Mark 11:1-10

Sermon: "Beyond the Benediction"

CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for those recovering in their health and our homebound.

Continued prayers for Nancy Countryman, she is at Shepherd of the Valley recovering from surgery. Everything went well and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Joan Shimko- admitted to hospital with kidney problems

THANK YOU!

The family of Esther Urey would like to thank all of our Church Family for the many beautiful cards with messages of sympathy and support at the loss of our mother. We appreciate the outpouring of love we have all received.

We would also like to thank Pastor Ken for his beautiful service for our mother and for all for his extra support and understanding during this pandemic.

GOOD NEWS

At the February Visionary Council meeting council members approved by unanimous census a return to an in-person worship option starting Palm Sunday, March 28th. Although council recognizes there is still considerable risk of disease within our county, many folks are completing their vaccination process, our schools are returning to in-person learning with appropriate precautions, and community groups are again utilizing our building for their meetings and activities. We are asking worshippers to follow the safety and social distancing procedures used last year (see below) to minimize infection risks. However, if you feel comfortable participating in sanctuary worship we look forward to seeing you soon!

Safety and Social Distancing Procedures for Worship

Please do any socializing before or after worship in the parking lot or fellowship hall
 Remember to wear a mask and refrain from physical contact
 Communion packets and worship bulletins will be provided upon entrance
 A hand sanitizing station will be just inside the door for your use
 Seating will be limited to every other pew in family groups
 Please sit beginning at the front of the sanctuary and fill towards the rear
 An offering tray will be placed at the exit of the sanctuary for tithes and offerings
 If using the bathroom, please knock before entering to see if it is available



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS WITH THE FEEDING MINISTRY

This month we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our church's monthly feeding ministry! Dale and Carol Hatch brought this ministry to us from their previous work through Second Christian Church. Moved by Jesus' instruction to Peter to "feed my sheep", spoken during Christ's resurrection appearance in John's Gospel, Dale's passion to serve the hungry was the driving force to get our food pantry off the ground. The first distribution took place on March 19, 2011. Carol purchased \$1,300 worth of food for just under \$50 through the Second Harvest Food Bank. 9 households were served which consisted of 23 people. From those modest beginnings Dale and Carol grew our monthly distributions through the summer of 2016 when Ken and Sharon Armstrong took over the leadership role. Last month the food pantry served 118 households consisting of 273 people! Through the years countless people have donated food and supplies to assist the food pantry with its mission. After the completion of the Disciple Center we were able to repurpose two classrooms for dedicated food storage equipped with freezers and refrigerators, greatly enhancing our ability to expand our monthly distributions. Thank you to everyone who has given of their time, finances and prayers to make this ministry such a success!

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY **E-MAIL OR TEXT**

Our Prayer Chain ministry began in 1984 with a telephone "chain", making individual phone calls from one member to the next, down the links of the chain. That has evolved; a prayer request now activates an e-mailing to the 43 members who have requested to be part of this ministry.

As technology advances, we wonder now would you prefer to receive prayer requests via text? Karen Sprague currently coordinates our Prayer Chain ministry. If you do not presently participate and would like to be a link on either the texting or the e-mailing chain, or if you presently receive e-mails but would prefer to receive a text, please contact Karen at 330-978-3441 or at backyardherbs1958@gmail.com with your information.

We know and value the power of prayer, and we invite you to take part in this ministry.

Imagine what God can do when we share our gifts. The Easter offering reaches *deep and wide* with the limitless power of the risen Christ by

- developing Disciples,
- forming new faith communities,
- connecting with ministry partners around the world,
- serving God's people in need.

Deep....

- leadership development programs for college and seminary students
- Bible studies that challenge and inspire
- opportunities for clergy to gather in prayer
- spiritual care for those in prison
- resources for mental health and trauma care
- visionary leadership that calls the church to imagine new ways to witness to God's love

and wide ...

- global ministry partners who work for justice, reconciliation, and peace
- colleges, universities, an theological institutions that nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society, and world
- volunteers who help in the aftermath of disasters
- new congregations who worship in a variety of languages and worship styles
- ministry grants for congregational service ministries that serve hungry neighbors