

St John Church of Christ

April 5, 2020

Sunday Program

Children's Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Pete and Penelope are back!
Join them at 10:00 A.M.

Adult Bible Class

10:30 A.M.

The cross rivets our attention, but often distracts us from the people Jesus touched and the grace he shared at the foot of the cross.

Worship

11:00 A.M.

Log into Facebook.com and search for "St. John Church of Christ" or just follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnChurchOfChrist/>

Please join us in worshipping God this morning. Send us your prayer requests throughout the broadcast. We will include them in our benediction.

Song: And Can It Be?

Communion

Lesson: Listen to Jesus on the Cross

"Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing'" (Luke 23:34)

Benediction & Prayer

(CCLI #244012t9)

"Forsaking the Assembly"

It was the Lord's Day, but it did not feel like it. With all of our church doors locked, we huddled in our homes reading the scriptures, having some time of prayer and meditation, but it did not feel like Sunday morning.

Were we "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (He. 10:24, 25)? Not at all. The dictionary defines "forsake" as "to abandon, to give up, to leave altogether." None of us who stayed at home Sunday abandoned faith. Rather, we long to be together; our heart's desire is to be with our brethren to worship. Sadly, long before this virus, some had abandoned their brethren, "as is the habit of some." As soon as it is safe, once again we will find our pew, rejoice in song as we again break the bread and drink the cup. Can't wait!

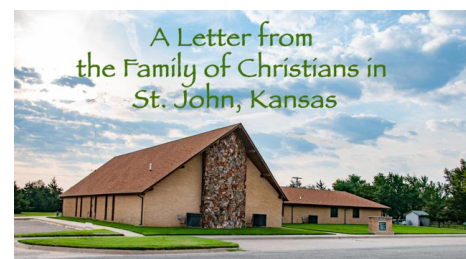
I feel this time absent from our worship and fellowship has given us a new appreciation of our assemblies. This passage tells us we assemble; "to stimulate one another to love and good deeds," and to be "encouraging one another." They say, "absence makes the heart grow fonder," Well, that first worship will be a special day for sure, when we can again be with

our brothers and sisters around the Lord's table. Let us stay safe and prayerful and look forward to the day when we again "salute one another with a holy kiss" (Ro. 16:16).

– Dennis Doughty, Minister
Tunica Mississippi

I can identify with Dennis. I miss our assemblies, and especially our songs! However, God is continuing to bless us in St. John. We have an advantage. We are able to meet online and each week seems to be better than the week before. We're learning how to use the new technology, and more people are joining us. Last Sunday, nearly 300 people joined us for part or all of our Live Streams! (If you missed it, the recordings are available on both Facebook, and YouTube.)

So, while we may be confined to our homes, nothing can bind our hearts!



Listen to Jesus on the Cross

Last Words

What is it that makes us pay close attention to a person's last words?

When Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, it was a slow, terrible death. He was nailed to the cross at about nine in the morning and breathed his last about three in the afternoon. The four gospel writers recorded the seven last saying of Jesus. Three of the sayings concerned others. The last four sayings are with reference to himself. This morning, we'll look at the first of the seven last sayings.

Open your Bibles, please, to Luke 23:32-38.

What was he saying?

Is he crying for pity? Is he cursing his enemies? He is praying!

Jesus ministry began with prayer, and now, even though his hands and feet were bound and the apostles had fled; Jesus still had the ministry of prayer!

But why did Jesus ask his Father to forgive them?

Why didn't Jesus just forgive them?

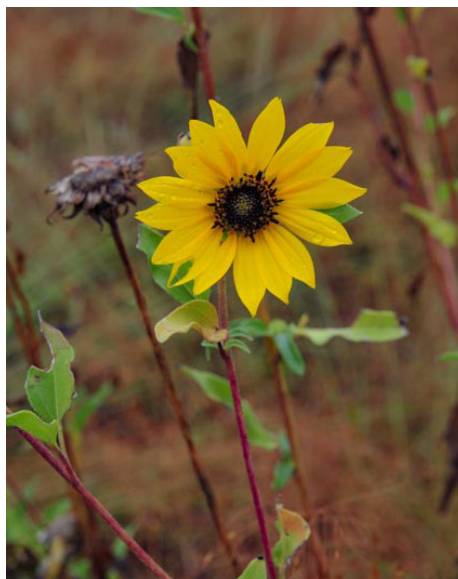
- He forgave the sins of the paralyzed man, Mt. 9:2.
- He forgave the sins of the sinful woman, Lk. 7:48.
- Jesus was identified with us - wholly human.

- Like a bridge, Jesus was suspended between heaven and earth.

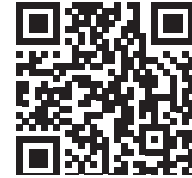
"Love Your Enemies"

Why did Jesus pray for his executioners at all? Do you remember the Sermon on the Mount? There Jesus said:

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:43 - 48).



News and Notes



Scan this QR code with your Smart Phone to visit our website:

<https://stjohnchurchofchrist.org>

Follow us on Facebook!

Do you have a news item, prayer request, or event to share with us? Call John McKeel (619) 313-7997.

What's Your Preference?

We are mailing this little bulletin to every family, but many people would rather just receive it electronically.

Please email us with your preference:

John@JohnMcKeel.com.

Did you enjoy singing along this morning?

We express our gratitude to the Richland Hills music ministry for permission to use the song, "And Can It Be?" from their album *Rescued*.

Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788) wrote the words and Thomas Campbell (1777 - 1844) wrote the music. Thomas was the father of Alexander Campbell.

(CCLI #244012t9)