

# St John Church of Christ

May 10, 2020

## This Week OnLine

### Children's Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Join Pete and Penelope online at 10:00 A.M.

### Adult Bible Class

10:30 - 10:45 A.M.

As we're climbing "The Stairway to Love," the first step is *faith*, what we believe, the second step is *excellence*, what we do, and the third step is "Understanding." Join us as the Bible explains *Enlightenment*.

### Worship

11:00 - 11:20 A.M.

The little prophet, Habakkuk asked the question we all ask: "Where is God when it hurts?" Join us on Facebook to hear God's answer.

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

Don't forget to send us your prayer requests throughout the broadcast. We will include them in our benediction.

(CCLI #244012t9)

## Mother Mary

Protestants have always been a bit uncomfortable talking about Mary the mother of Jesus. Catholics and the Orthodox have developed elaborate "Mariologies" and venerate her next to God, even calling her the "Theotokos" (God-bearer). It is even taught that Mary was without sin! (A statement never supported in Scripture.) In response, we tend to shy away from talking about Mary except, perhaps, at Christmas, or we may mention the time she and Joseph lost the boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41 ff.), and that is a shame. Mary was a remarkable woman and a fitting example for us to study on Mother's Day.

Jesus loved his mother, and in no other Scripture, do we see Mary acting more like the mother of a grown-up child than John chapter two. Jesus and Mary have been invited to a wedding. A horrible faux pas has occurred. The young couple ran out of celebratory wine. (Today that would be like running out of wedding cake.) Mary turns to her son and points out the predicament. Up to this point, Jesus hadn't performed any miracles, and it is doubtful that she was expecting Jesus to do what he did. Mary just knew Jesus was caring and resourceful, and surely such a fine son could fix things. Now we

know the rest of the story. Jesus not only saved the day, but John reports:

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him (John 2:11)

Unfortunately, shortly after this, the family of Jesus stopped following him. They loved Jesus, and they believed he was the best big brother a sibling could ever have, but they just couldn't believe Jesus was the Christ. If we think about it, we can understand their feelings, but how heartbreaking it must have been for them all!

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*John and his mother Wanda*



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Still, Mary was there at the foot of the cross, and she watched her baby boy die (John 19:25-27). Through a veil of tears, Mary must have remembered Simeon's prophecy: "And a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Luke 2:34). No mother should see her children taken away before her!

But the story doesn't end there. It very well may be that Jesus made a special resurrection appearance to his mother that is not recorded (after all, he appeared to his brother James, 1 Corinthians 15:7). What is recorded is, just a short time later, Mary and her children were gathered in an upper room with the faithful disciples. They were there when the Holy Spirit came, and the Christian Age began (Acts 1:14).

You see, moms never stop believing in their children, and that's why I love mine so. I miss you, mom.



## **For Your Prayers**

Here is our latest prayer list from our last online worship service:

- "Please pray for Maren Turner, 2 year old from Great Bend who has Leukemia."
- Kari asked us to "Please pray for my friend Heidi as she is going through radiation for breast cancer."
- We also have special prayers for Dominic who is in Kansas, and Matthew who is in Connecticut. They are both in facilities, and due to the virus, their isolation has almost become unbearable. Please remember their loved ones who are unable to visit and comfort them at this time.
- Likewise, remember Don and Gladys. Kenwood isn't allowing visitors - but you can give them a phone call and talk with them while standing outside their window in back!
- Let's not forget to pray for our missionaries in Mexico where the virus is effecting them as well!

Pray for our online presence as we stream our worship and Bible Classes. Ask God to help us take advantage of these new opportunities!

In addition, let's pray for the safety of our community, our elderly and especially for our children. Thank God for those who are giving their time to minister to them and provide them with meals.

Pray for our families. Many businesses have closed or restricted their hours. Without work, needs are going to be especially great for them.