

# St John Church of Christ

October 11, 2020

## ONLINE

Our programs are available over the internet starting Sundays at 10:30 for Adult Class and 11:00 for Worship. The programs will also be available to watch online later. Just visit

[www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org)

and select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or from [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com).

### Adult Bible Class

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote one of the most down-to-earth letters in the New Testament. Join us online every Sunday as John McKeel shares from his recent book, *James the Brother of Jesus Speaks*.

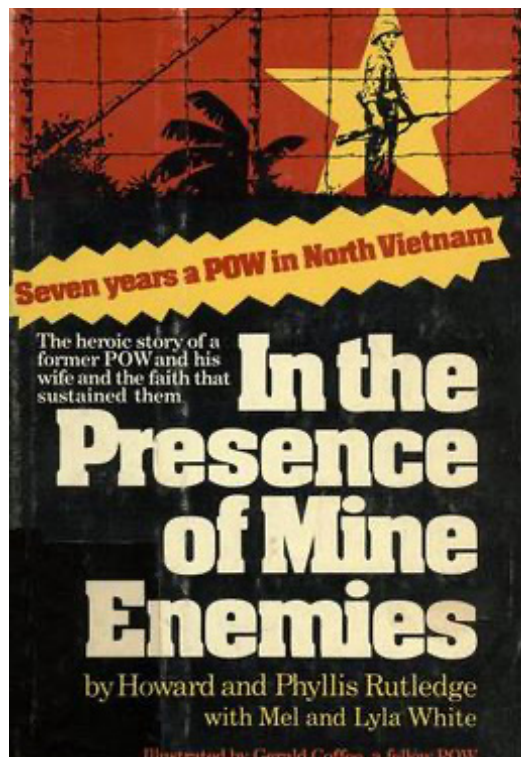
## LIVE!

### Worship

11:00 - 11:45 A.M.

We're meeting at the building again live starting at 11:00 A.M.

# First Things First



Howard Rutledge, a United States Air Force pilot, was shot down over North Vietnam during the early stages of the war. In his book *In the Presence of Mine Enemies* Rutledge describes what he learned about life:

"During those longer periods of enforced reflection it became so much easier to separate the important from the trivial, the worthwhile from the waste. For example, in the past, I usually worked or played hard on Sundays and had no time for church. For years Phyllis [his wife] had encouraged me to join the family at church. She never nagged or scolded - she

just kept hoping. But I was too busy, too preoccupied, to spend one or two short hours a week thinking about the really important things.

"Now the sights and sounds and smells of death were all around me. My hunger for spiritual food soon outdid my hunger for a steak. Now I wanted to know about that part of me that will never die. Now I wanted to talk about God and Christ and the church. But in Heartbreak [the name POWs gave their prison camp] solitary confinement, there was no

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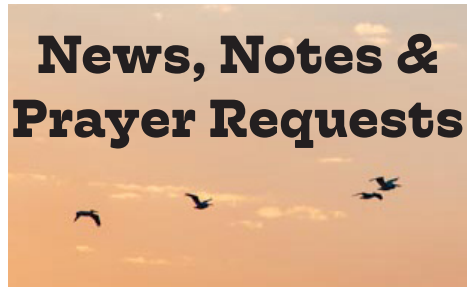
pastor, no Sunday-School teacher, no Bible, no hymnbook, no community of believers to guide and sustain me. I had completely neglected the spiritual dimension of my life. It took prison to show me how empty life is without God.”

We’re glad you’re here with us this morning and we’re thankful it didn’t take a prisoner of war camp to bring you to our fellowship. Life is about the choices we make and putting God first should be our highest priority. With that foundation, life becomes LIFE - now and forever.

### Wise Words

It’s not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.”  
–Epictetus

“We must all either wear out or rust out, every one of us. My choice is to wear out.”  
–Theodore Roosevelt



Little two-year-old Maren’s second transplant is doing better. She has come home, but is still undergoing extensive care. In addition, her sister and her grandfather have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Please continue to pray for her and her entire family.

Camelia Clark, a Christian who has been very active in supporting our mission to Singapore, has requested our prayers. She lives in San Diego and is suffering health issues and has also lost her job.

Let’s continue to pray for our community as we deal with the pandemic. The *active cases* have dropped significantly!

### A Place for Pictures

Fall Harvest Time



### It’s a Man Thing

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper’s cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn’t stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn’t know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I’ve never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played “Amazing Grace”, the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, “I never seen anything like that before, and I’ve been putting in septic tanks for twenty years.”

Apparently, I’m still lost....it’s a man thing.