### St John Church of Christ March 28, 2021

Worship Service



# Welcome to Worship!

We're glad you're here with us! We've been in quarrantine for so long, it's good to be back.

Our Adult Bible Class is still being shared online at 10:30. Just visit

#### www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

and select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:

#### St. John Church of Christ

Next Sunday is Easter! Be sure to join us – and bring a friend!

# The Fruit Inspector

Jesus warned us, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged" (Matthew 7:1), but we are required to make judgments all the time. Based on what Jesus says just a few verses later (Matthew 7:16), the famous Los Angeles preacher, Marshall Keeble, used to quip, "I'm not a judge – I'm a fruit inspector!" So, what's the difference?

A judge makes a solemn pronouncement branding someone for all time: "Guilty!" and people who act like judges condemn people and don't give them a chance to grow: "You'll never amount to anything" or "You are such a disappointment!"

A fruit inspector, on the other hand, makes allowances, "It's not quite ripe yet," or "It's past its prime. This apple is rotten." A fruit inspector knows the differ-





ence between a peach and a mango. As Jesus said,

"By their fruit, you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit, you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:16- 20).

Judges are harsh, and their decisions are not easily reversed. A fruit inspector recognizes produce and knows how to care for it. Wouldn't it be great if we were all fruit inspectors?



### Something to Think About



A father came home late one evening, exhausted. Heading for the easy chair, he picked up the evening paper, looking forward to a few moments' rest. No sooner had he hit the chair than his young son joined the newspaper in his lap. "Can we play, Dad?"

The father loved his son very much but really felt he needed some time alone. Noticing a picture in the paper that evening form a recent moon probe, he came up with a plan. It was a photo of the earth, taken from the moon. He cut the picture out an then cut it into small pieces, creating an instant jigsaw puzzle. Almost all the pieces looked alike. He encouraged his son to take it to his room with some tape and put the earth back together again.

The father was satisfied that he would have more than enough time to relax. He was quite surprised to see his son appear about ten minutes later -- with the photograph of the earth intact.

"How did you do that so quickly?" he asked. "It was easy, dad," the boy replied. "There was a picture of a man on the back -- and when I put the man together, the world came together."

# News & Prayer Requests

We have had a number of knee surgeries among our members this month. Marilyn continues to recover from her surgery. Lisa is home from Houston and Orvalee had her surgery this past week.

Gayle is continuing to have bleeding problems and has been in the hospital in Pratt. Please pray that the doctors can find the source of her blood loss.

Please continue to pray for Paul as he battles cancer in Washington state, and let's continue to pray for Curtis in Pratt as he wrestles with cancer.

Don't forget to continue to pray for little Emersyn, the daughter of Billy and Brianna Milton of Hudson and for Mauren the daughter of the Turner's in Great Bend. We are receiving good reports on the progress of both little girls.

Please begin praying about VBS for this coming summer.

#### Our Missionaries:

#### In Mexico

- Ubaldo & Maria Cardona in Chihuahua
- Jorge (Coco) and Latisha Serrano in Oaxaca
- Rick Owens who is building churches

#### In Florida

 Dennis Rosenbaum – Don't forget to ask the Lord to comfort Dennis. He is still grieving the passing of his wife, Susan, this winter.

#### In Kansas

- Silver Maple Camp Don't forget the workday April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Vacation Bible School is coming for one day only, Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- We'll be preparing and serving the meal for CORE, Monday night, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

### It's Time to Restart!

A year has passed under the shadow of the pandemic. Now that so many have received their vaccinations, and the number of active covid-19 cases has dwindled in our community, it's time to start-up our activities again.

#### Next Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, is Easter! Can you think of a better time to resurrect our programs?

In person Bible Classes will resume at 10:00 for both children and adults! Pete and Penelope will be back at 10:00 followed by children's classes. At 10:00, for the adult class, John will talk about the last week in the life of Christ with slides he has personally taken of Jerusalem to illustrate it.

At 11:00, we'll worship. You are welcome to use your discretion regarding wearing a mask, but we will still socially distance by only sitting every other row. We'll continue to use the individual communion sets during the Lord's Supper.

Our singing will be live as well as our worship. We will continue to broadcast our services for those who can't attend.