St John Church of Christ May 9, 2021

Worship Service

> Premiers Sunday at 11:00

Welcome to Worship!

We're glad you're here. Bible classes begin at 10:00. For kids, the Pete & Penelope, our children's puppet program is followed by songs and classes.

Our Bible is the most amazing book of all time. Although it was written by dozens of people over a period of 1,600 years, we believe the Author is God. Adults, join us in the auditorium! Today's class is "Inspiration." Our new study of the Holy Spirit begins in two weeks.

Worship follows at 11:00.

If you are unable to be with us in person, our worship is shared through our website:

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

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

St. John Church of Christ

Just in Time!



N early two years had passed since Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem. Jesus was born in a manager and was adored by shepherds, but time had passed and things had settled down to a kind of normalcy. The young couple got to know each other as husband and wife. The baby wrapped in swaddling clothes was now a toddler playing at the feet of his momma, while Joseph was growing his carpentry business.

Bethlehem is only about eight miles outside of Jerusalem, but it must have seemed a world apart. It was mostly a pastoral village with the rich heritage of being the "City of David," the most famous king of Israel. Joseph and Mary were related to the former king, but so were a lot of people. Still, they knew a secret. That little toddler was destined to follow in David's footsteps!

His parents must have followed the rumors about "King" Herod. The old despot was nearly 70, but in addition to the marvelous architectural wonders he was responsible for, like the remodeled temple in Jerusalem and the fine port town of Caesarea on the coast, he had also left a wide swath of blood behind him. King Herod had killed his wife, his mother and three of his sons. In Greek, the Emperor Augustus punned, "It's better to be Herod's pig (hys) than Herod's son (hyios)."

Herod did not hesitate to butcher anyone who threatened his throne, so when some "Magi" (astrologer/ priests) arrived in Jerusalem asking

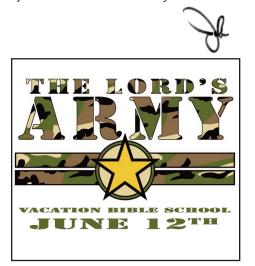
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about the newborn king, the old despot slyly encouraged them to find the child so he too "might worship him."

Can you imagine the stir their arrival in the little village of Bethlehem must have caused? Can you imagine the surprise Mary must have felt when they stopped at her house with gifts for the boy? Gold, incense and myrrh – gifts for a king delivered to the home of a humble carpenter.

Now comes the point of our story. In the night, the Magi were warned Herod intended to kill the child. That night Joseph is also told to get up and flee in the dark with the baby and his mother. There was no time to sell their possessions. There was no time to properly pack for the move, but God provides! The gifts of the Magi – the gold, incense and myrrh – provided the means for their escape. Joseph was able to flee before dawn with his family before the evil king could destroy the child and that is how God rescues us: just in time.

"Just in time" is the way of faith. God provided a ram to replace the human sacrifice, Isaac "just in time." God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace "just in time" and God will save us "just in time." It's the way of faith.



News from Ubaldo

Brothers and Sisters of St. John.

My dear friends in Christ, it is my prayer that the God of the universe continues to manifest himself in your lives. Thank you very much for the love you have for the work of our God, and may the God of heaven and earth continue to fill you with blessings. With regard to ourselves, we are doing everything we have to do, even with the pandemic. We are making known the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We still cannot have face-to-face studies with people in their homes because people are afraid of catching Covid-19. However, there are always people who want to hear the message of salvation. Another way we are preaching is through social networks, and thank God we are having acceptance from the people who see us there. We are also sending written messages over social networks with very good results.

There is a lot of contagion of covid-19 throughout the state of Chihuahua, and vaccination against Covid-19 is going very slowly. Even with restrictions, we do not stop preaching. We are traveling to the mountains to encourage the brothers there and to continue preaching. There, we were also able to receive the second dose of the vaccine.

We have plans for an evangelism campaign in Parral from May 19-22, Unfortunately, the state government has closed the churches there, but we hope in God that on the date scheduled the government will let us open. Please pray for us and this campaign.

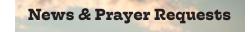
God bless the brothers of St. John and also the brothers of Pratt.

Atte. Ubaldo Cardona



Key Dates

- Vacation Bible School
- May 12 Work Night
- May 19 Work Night
- May 26 Work Night
- Saturday June 12 One-Day Vacation Bible School!
- Congregational Birthday
 Party!
 - May 23, Potluck and Party after morning services
- CORE Dinner
- May 24, Monday Night
- VBS JUNE 12th



Please keep Joe's brother, Rick, in your prayers. He is in the hospital and his sepsis is extremely serious.

Gayle is continuing to have bleeding problems.

We received good news from Paul, John's friend in Washington. There has been some progress with his chemotherapy this week.

Let's continue to pray for Curtis in Pratt as he wrestles with cancer.

Congratulations to Kayla and the whole class of 2021 as they are graduating!