

Make a Joyful Sound!

(by Ashton Gentry, Director of Worship)

Zephaniah 3:17 says, “The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” What a joyful passage this is! It states that the Lord our God is with us. There has never been a time nor will there ever be a time where God isn’t with us. He is with us always, and He loves to be our

heavenly Father. He has saved us from all of our sins and shortcomings, and is happily and readily there to take our hand and guide us with His overflowing, endless love. He is not there to condemn us, for He takes delight in us, His creation, when we trust in Him and rely on Him as our source of strength.



To state this in terms of a powerful Christian song, He is the Well. In the Casting Crowns’ song, “The Well,” there is the powerful reminder that “all who thirst will thirst no more” and “all who search will find what their souls long for.” Indeed, our God is the Well, the source of our life. In John 7:37-39, Jesus says “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me” and “rivers of living water will flow from his heart.” Without God, our wells would be empty. He sustains us, provides for us, and watches over us. We are His children and He rejoices over us with singing when we trust in Him and His Word. May we always come to and draw from the one true and eternal well, Jesus Christ.

Kingdom Kids Update

(by Analisa Woods, Director of Student Ministries)

Did you know Kingdom Kid’s video lessons are available online? That’s right! Staff and volunteers are hard at work making learning about God’s love fun, interactive, and accessible! Videos feature a lesson, a song, and a trip to Adventure Island where crafts, experiments, and games are shown for you to try at home! The current series is “Bible Stories”, where we read and explore popular stories of the Bible. We would love to have you join us!

ALSO...Visit “FCC Kingdom Kids” on Facebook! Never miss a lesson or an important announcement, go back and watch videos done over the last year. Videos are posted every Saturday morning, and are currently available only on Facebook. So join us! We hope you enjoy the videos as much as we do!



Slow to Understand

(by T. J. Gentry, Senior Minister)

“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me?” (John 14:9)

I can almost feel the tension when Jesus asks this question of Philip, one of the twelve, one of those who had walked with Him for more than three years...one of those who had been watching and listening and, at least I would have thought, learning who Jesus was. Yet, here is Philip, pressing Jesus for more, even though he just heard Jesus declare that He is the way, the truth, and the life, and that to know Him is to know and see His Father. Undeterred, and seemingly clueless, Philip says to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” Wow. Just wow. Was he not listening to all that Jesus had just said? Did he not realize that this kind of response would, at least in my ears, be heard as something of an insult...an admission that Philip either did not hear or did not believe...or both? Understandably, Jesus responds with a rather pointed question, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known me, Philip?”

Would anyone blame Jesus if, at this point, He had decided that Philip—that all the twelve—either understood or they didn’t, but He was not going to continue allowing them to question Him, to question who He was. After all, there had been ample evidence and numerous opportunities to get this right, but these disciples who were supposed to be closest to Jesus still seemed very far away from Him. But Jesus doesn’t stop there. He doesn’t allow Philip’s lack of knowledge or belief or whatever it was to keep Him from making Himself known...from helping Philip and the others even when they struggled to help themselves.

And that’s where I find myself in this story. Though I hope to be more like Jesus, I am usually more like Philip. I am slow to understand. I’ve noticed that some of the most important lessons I learn from God come as a result of my penchant for being...well...rather obtuse and slow to understand. Though He may have been clearly teaching me something for some time, I struggle to learn. Worse, when pressed by the pressures of life or my own inner struggles and doubts, I may appear to have learned nothing. I sit alone in a darkened classroom of my own making, surrounded by unoccupied chairs and desks, looking to the front of the room and hearing the voice of my Teacher, but not sure what He is saying. It’s not that His message to me is unclear...only that my mind is filled with disparate voices that sound a lot like my own...or my mind is filled with only silence. Not the kind of silence that is helpful and restorative, but the awkward kind of silence that sometimes becomes the impetus to speak when quiet would be better. And then, in the wake of speaking when silence would have been better, the silence becomes even more difficult and strained.

Yet, and this is one of the reasons His grace is so amazing, even when I am slow to understand He is quick to teach me. It is almost as if He actually finds great joy in overlooking my dullness of mind and incompetence of speech. As though He is unconcerned by my limitations because He knows He has none. He loves to replace my confusion with clarity, to transform my imperception into insight, to turn a missed opportunity into a teachable moment. Though I am slow to learn, He is quick to teach, and to love, and to not give up on me. I am slow to understand, but He is not. For that, I am grateful.

Have you heard about Night into Noonday Ministry?

Committed to helping the homeless right here in our community, the ministry started about a year and a half ago as a mission of Trinity Methodist Church, though now the work is supported by volunteers from several local congregations, including First Christian and First and Third Baptist Churches. Currently operating out of the old West Frankfort City Hall, homeless guests are served every Thursday from 10:30 am to 1 pm, receiving personal care items, clothing, and a hot meal as well as a take along backpack. The ministry also helps with housing and employment applications, counseling, vouchers for haircuts, access to showers, and provides Bibles. Approximately 25-35 homeless guests are served each week, and donations are received Mondays from 10 am to noon and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 am. If you would like to help with this vital community outreach, please contact Debbie Petkas.

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
CHRIST IN ME. CHRIST OVER ME.
Christ to right of me,
CHRIST TO LEFT OF ME,
CHRIST IN LYING DOWN. CHRIST IN SITTING.
Christ in rising up, Christ in the heart
of every person who may think of me,
Christ in the mouth of every
person who may speak of me,
CHRIST IN EVERY EYE,
WHICH MAY LOOK ON ME!
CHRIST IN EVERY EAR. WHICH MAY HEAR ME!
catholicALLYEAR.com - st. patrick's breastplate -



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Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 am-4pm; Closed Friday

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CHRISTIAN SENTINEL – MARCH 2021
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Welcome to March! What an exciting time as we transition from the shorter days of Winter to the longer days of Spring. Soon the trees will bud, the grass will begin to grow, and the flowers will bloom. Springtime, welcome back!

FCC Happenings

Saturday, 13 March
7 am – Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Sunday, 14 March – Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward!)
Wednesday, 17 March – Happy St. Patrick's Day!
Thursday, 18 March
9:30 am – Young and Rested Canasta
Saturday, 20 March – First Day of Spring
Sunday, 21 March
11:45 am – Elders' Meeting
2 pm – Good Shepherd Ministry Training Academy
5 pm – Deep Dive Discussion "A Pro-Life Response to Pro-Choice Christians"
6 pm – One Year Bible Dessert Fellowship
Wednesday, 31 March
7 pm – Kingdom Kids Easter Party and Egg Hunt
Friday, 2 April
6 pm – Good Friday Service of Darkness

Remember to "spring forward" with your clocks on Sunday, 14 March, as Daylight Savings Time begins.

