

The Light

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2323 Broadway St.
Lubbock, TX. 79401-2916

**APRIL 2020
Volume 31
Issue 4**

FCC Parking Lot Church
March 22, 2020



*Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are
set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of
Weeping, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains
also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength till
each appears before God in Zion.*

Psalm 84:5-7



**Reverend
Paul
Carpenter**
Senior Minister
paul@fcclubbock.org

Grace and peace to you! If you would open your Bibles to **Psalm 84**, you'll see familiar language:

"How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty (v.1)!"

"Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they are ever praising You (v.4)" "Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked (v.10)."

While Heaven is the beginning and the end of this prayer, the middle is about the journey. Just as those who live in Heaven are "blessed," so are those who are making the expedition. To be "blessed" is to be eternally enviable; though we suffer now and are often misunderstood. In the end the saints will be considered by all of creation as blessed by God.

84:5a – *"Blessed are those whose strength is in You."* Surely you've seen days where only by God's strength you lived. We know that in our weakness God's strength is best revealed (2 Cor 12:9). He is eager to rest His power on the faithful who offer up our weaknesses, our need, our reliance on Him.

84:5b – *"[Blessed are those] who have set their hearts on pilgrimage."* Home is where your future is. If your future is in the World To Come, your heart will long for it. The Christian Life is the discipline of keeping our imperfect feet on the perfect path that Jesus pioneered. With God as our strength, we walk the same streets as all mankind, but spiritually we are progressing down the unseen, narrow path. The Pilgrim's path leads over rough places and through dark valleys, just as it goes through fields of wheat and near streams of water. The courage to start and to continue in the journey is God's gift and makes us "blessed" even in our hardships.

84:6 – *"As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools."*

Baca is Hebrew for "weeping". God's Pilgrims don't avoid difficult places, but follow the designated path. As God leads the nations through difficult days, the Pilgrims are focused on Him and are transforming these valleys into places of life. Our close walk with Jesus is accomplishing more than we can see. God is touching hearts through you, giving hope by your example, and calling the lost to Jesus through your smile, love, Gospel-witness, and good works. Just as pools of water are most appreciated in times of drought, so are the gifts of God in times when the world is dark and cold. Those who Journey to heaven are sowing and reaping as we go.

84:7a – *"They go from strength to strength."* Have you noticed how much more faithful and hopeful you are today than when you started? We offer God our weak, frail lives, and He becomes our strength. Upon His strength He adds layers of power until we make it the full distance by His grace. True Christianity is not a flash-in-the-pan. It is a growing flame that consumes our whole life. A camp song sings, "It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing; that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it."

84:7b – *"till each appears before God in Zion."* The journey of our weakness and God's strength, which blesses the world, prepares each of us for the Great Day we will see God face-to-face. We will know Him as He fully knows us (1 Cor 13:12). We may not acknowledge it all the time, but this path fulfills 2 Cor 3:18: "And we all, with unveiled faces, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another." The path is refining us, taking away our ruts, and adding life and glory to our souls. Be encouraged, Saints, that He who resurrected your heart will finish this work by lifting up your whole person as a Father lifts up His child. The end is the best part, so let us set our hearts on pilgrimage and be blessed to be a blessing in the land of the living.

Godspeed and blessings,
Pastor Paul

Pray for God's Purpose in this Trial . . . Marilyn Wragg

"Trials: that word means hardships or bad times."

I just videoed a lesson on Acts 21–23 for elementary kids who will complete this year's Bible study online. The lesson was providentially timed, as we saw that in every trial faced by the apostle Paul, he trusted God. Instead of being angry or afraid, he asked, "How can I use this hard thing as an opportunity to serve God?" Paul knew God has a purpose for every believer, even in trials.

People are facing many trials right now because of the coronavirus. Bad news, uncertainty, fears, social isolation—all of these attack our minds and spirits. How can followers of Christ, like Paul, get beyond our dazed anxiety to find purpose in these unprecedented times?

Begin, as always, by turning to God. I suggested to the kids that we start every day by praying, "Our Father in Heaven, how can I use this trial to serve You? What can I do today?" Make a list of people and actions that God puts on your heart. Through the day, follow through, being sure to pray over each action or contact you make. And look for, and thank God for, every blessing that you see.

You will find the days pass quickly when you focus on purposeful tasks. Doing things to help and encourage others uplifts your spirit. Finding ways to bring joy to others brings you joy. Reminding others that God is bigger than all our fears calms your own fears. Repeating God's promises to others boosts your hope.

I pray, and I trust, that on the other side of this crisis, we will have learned as never before that God has a purpose for every believer, even in this trial. May God bless you as you discover and fulfill yours.

What might I do today to serve God in this trial?

Text or call people God puts on your heart

Send encouragement notes and cards

Include scriptures of strength and promise

Pray over the phone, or text prayers

See if an isolated person needs groceries, include on your next order, and deliver to their porch

Keep an ongoing list of people and situations over which to pray. Pause often each day to pray.

Fill in additional ideas

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him." *James 1:12*

In the Life of the Church... Deborah Bigness

Art inspires, comforts, lifts the spirit, and proclaims the glory of the Lord. Longtime member Ray Collier is among those who have used their gifts to express their faith. The beauty created by Ray's talents greets you as you enter the building. Using the "leftover" pieces from the windows in the Hodges Chapel, he created the stained glass cross now displayed in the Church Office window. His carving based on Jesus' invitation to Simon Peter and Andrew in Matthew 4:19 to become, "fishers of men," hangs nearby.

Ray came to Lubbock to attend Texas Tech after serving in World War II and, fittingly, met Marge Allen in a freshman art class. They married in 1949 at First Christian, and made it their church home. He was the advertising artist for Furr's, Inc. You still see his company logo on Furr's Family Dining signs. Ray used his calligraphy skills to letter the sign, "Jesus, King of the Jews" for the large wooden cross that stands in our sanctuary during Lent, and designed covers for our Lenten devotional books, until his death in 2009.



Ray Collier
Detail; *Fishers of Men*



We are in need of email address and updated contact information for ALL our church family. Please contact Mary Norman in the church office to ensure your information is up to date.

Great hymns of faith to sing while meditating on God's Word in Psalm 84



Brittney Hardin
Director
of Music

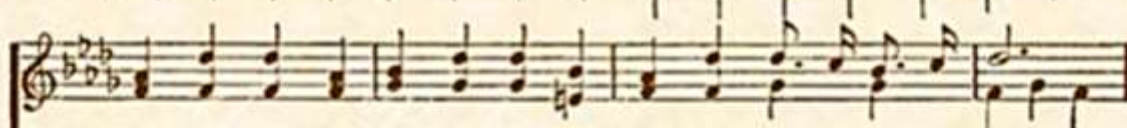
When We All Get To Heaven

E. E. HEWITT

Mrs. J. G. WILSON



1. Sing the won-drous love of Je - sus, Sing His mer-cy and His grace;
2. While we walk the pil - grim pathway, Clouds will o - ver-spread the sky;
3. Let us then be true and faith-ful, Trust-ing, serv-ing ev - 'ry day;
4. On - ward to the prize be-fore us! Soon His beau-ty we'll be - hold;



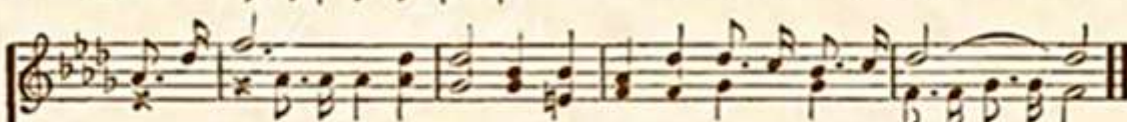
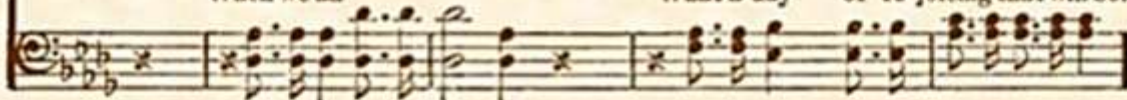
In the man-sions bright and blessed, He'll pre-pare for us a place.
But when trav'ling days are o - ver, Not a shad-ow, not a sigh.
Just one glimpse of Him in glo - ry Will the toils of life re - pay.
Soon the pearl - y gates will o - pen, We shall tread the streets of gold.
for us a place.



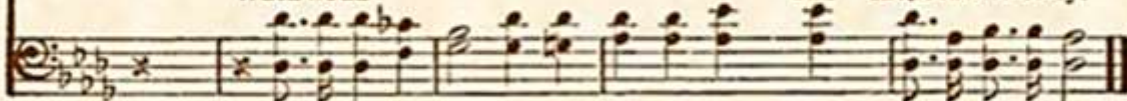
CHORUS



When we all get to heaven, What a day of re-joicing that will be!
When we all What a day of re-joicing that will be!



When we all see Je-sus, We'll sing and shout the vic-to-ry.....
When we all and shout the vic-to-ry.



Great hymns of faith to sing while meditating on God's Word in Psalm 84

Blessed Assurance

Fanny J. Crosby

Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp



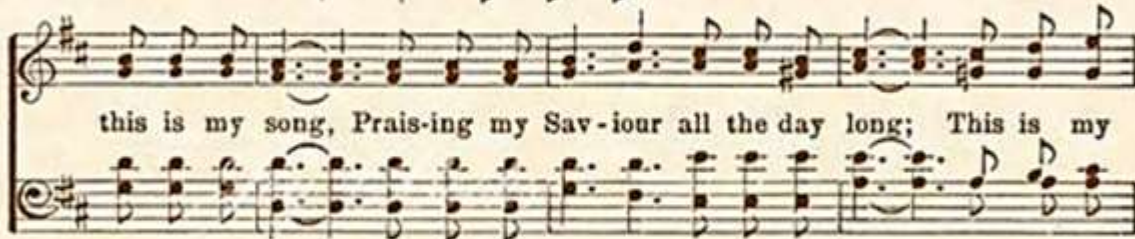
1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of
2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, Vi-sions of rap-ture now
3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-iour am



glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
burst on my sight; An-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove
hap-py and blest; Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,



CHORUS
Born of His Spir-it, washed in His blood.
Ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry,
Filled with His good-ness, lost in His love.



this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-iour all the day long; This is my



sto-ry, this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-iour all the day long.

Activity Page for Kids

Are your kids bored and looking for something to do? Here are a few activities for them. Share your art with Mary Norman at mary@fcclubbock.org

Books of the Old Testament



Genesis
Deuteronomy
Samuel
Nehemiah
Proverbs
Jeremiah
Hosea
Jonah
Zephaniah

Exodus
Joshua
Kings
Esther
Ecclesiastes
Lamentations
Joel
Micah
Haggai

Leviticus
Judges
Chronicles
Job
Song Of Solomon
Ezekiel
Amos
Nahum
Zechariah

Numbers
Ruth
Ezra
Psalms
Isaiah
Daniel
Obadiah
Habakkuk
Malachi

Mom,
**I'M
BORED!**



Books of the Bible Word Scramble

1. svrbproe _____
2. ervleaonit _____
3. smtletanaoni _____
4. omrnas _____
5. gnseie _____
6. bwserhe _____
7. eouxsd _____
8. haeos _____
9. snaaltagi _____
10. ojnha _____
11. eudtermooy _____
12. rcahahezi _____
13. nbuesmr _____
14. nsppailiiph _____
15. seiephans _____
16. oieplmnh _____
17. eihemjra _____
18. eugjds _____
19. hobaaaid _____
20. hrtsee _____

LOVE THE LORD
WITH all OF
YOUR GOD
your HEART and WITH ALL OF YOUR
SOUL and WITH all OF YOUR
Mind and With all OF
YOUR STRENGTH
MARK 12:30

Light of Youth

A Moment with a Martyr

Today I'd like to introduce you to my friend Ignatius. Saint Ignatius of Antioch served as the bishop in the church of Antioch during the early 100s AD. Unlike many other works and historical accounts of martyrs, Ignatius' account of martyrdom is derived from seven letters he wrote himself to church communities while in the captivity of Roman authorities



Derek Jerezano
Youth Minister

Ignatius, had in some way upset the local authorities by presenting his Christian faith in a way that made a fool of the Romans which in turn earned him a ticket to what would be known as his final journey.

Saint Ignatius was escorted by 10 Roman soldiers from his hometown to the Roman capital. As he was led on his journey, much like Paul's 3rd mission, the guards stopped in Smyrna and allowed many of the Christian communities to interact and bless Ignatius, specifically bishop Polycarp who would be led four decades later.

Throughout Ignatius' letters and interactions with many Roman Christians, you could see this wrestling of will. Ignatius' greatest desire was to follow Christ and follow him even unto death, yet he was fearful that he would 1.) Not be strong enough to endure the wild beasts in the coliseum with Christian dignity 2.) Have one of his brothers or sisters in high esteem within the Roman government rescue him from his exaltation. Ignatius in each of his letters begged his brothers and sisters not to rescue him or take away the joy of giving his life for Christ. Ignatius was a man whose heart was set upon the Lord even unto death.

I interpret some of Ignatius' last words before meeting his end in the coliseum as some of the most beautiful:

" May nothing at all, whether of this world or the invisible world above, fight against me and prevent me from reaching Jesus Christ. Bring on the fire... the cross....the hordes of wild beasts! Let the cuttings and dissections begin! The wrenching of my bones, the dicing of my limbs, the grinding of my entire body, the hideous tortures of the devil – let all this befall me; only let me attain Jesus Christ! Nothing from one end of the earth to the other matters to me anymore. The kingdoms of this age are meaningless. I would rather die for Jesus Christ then rule the entire world. He alone is the one I seek, the one who died for us. He is my desire, the one who rose again for our sake!"

MARCH ATTENDANCE

March 1 st	March 8 th	March 15 th	March 22 nd	March 29 th
8:30 am–56 10:40 am–220	8:30 am–52 10:40 am– 224	8:30 am–54 10:40 am–155	10:00 am	10:00 am–
			101 Cars	148 Cars
Sunday School– 116	Sunday School–96	Sunday School– 89		

a Light update

Lilies and Beans

We regret to inform you that the Easter Lily and Beans program for this year has been suspended. We will be donating 100% of the funds already received to the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministry in the Rio Grande Valley for beans. There will be no lilies and subsequently, there will not be an Easter memorial and honorarium brochure this year. If you have already purchased lilies and beans and would rather receive a refund, please notify Jim Evans in the office or by email at jim@fcclubbock.org. If you would like to participate in our support of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, you may make that contribution through Palm Sunday. We will transfer all funds received the week after Easter.

Online and Text Giving

We have almost completed migration to a new accounting and database management system. The new system will allow us to offer online and text giving while ensuring your electronic contributions are recorded seamlessly to your individual giving statement. You will also have the ability to access your own giving record, make contributions, and manage your own member profile through a custom online app. This will also give you a constant 24/7 online directory through a private member portal. There is one catch. You must have a valid e-mail address on file in order to use any of the new features. You can always continue to contribute with online banking, personal checks or cash during collections. We will continue to mail contribution statements as in the past. However, you will be able to very easily pull your own statement online at any time. We are excited to roll out this new system in the next few weeks. Be looking for your e-mailed invitation very soon. And remember, please make sure we have a valid e-mail address on file for you.

MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

	March 1 st	March 8 th	March 15 th	March 22 nd	March 29 th
General	\$19,562	\$18,218	\$17,632	\$24,386	\$95,556
Designated	\$7541	\$355.00	\$461.00	\$100.00	\$1,790

Military News And Concerns

Lt. Brant Brock-
Norfolk-
Home from
Deployment
son-in-law of
Brenda Hendricks

Christopher
Colgrove
Kuwait
nephew of
Laurie Williams

Lieutenant
Colonel
Ethan Diven
Newport News, VA
husband & father
of
Sabrina, Jacob
&
Kendall
and son-in-law of
Jerry & Brenda
Stanfield

1st Lt Nicholas
Swanson
USAF, Elmendorf
Air Force Base,
Anchorage Alaska
grandson of
Virginia Myers
Dorman

Capt. Nathaniel
Swanson
USMC, Cherry
Point Marine
Corps, Havelock,
North Carolina
grandson of
Virginia Myers

We Lift Up in Prayer our Friends and Family

Members:

Alan Barkley, Robbie Bedker, Lynn Cooper, Charles Cypert, Jody Dean, Steve DeHay, Sylvia Etter, Laura Flieller, Kaye Greer, Carolyn Lawrence, Monica Matzner, Shelley Nelson, Burle Pettit, Randell Resneder, Shirley Sharp, Josh Stevens, Dick Tarr, Joy Turner, Amber Wilhelm

Friends:

Fred Alley, Kyle Beirschmitt, Sandra Bermingham, Debbie Boen, Bear Bock, Marilyn Brinkley, Paula Sue Dunbar, Monica Etter, Steven Garcia, Joe Gillispie, Donna Harger, Deborah Haywood, Eric Hite, Gary Hughes, Kate Irvin, Jeremy Johnson, Chris Mackey, Kristen Mata, M'Lee McDonald, Leroy Montoya, Kerry Coats Nielson, Eli Overley, Becky Peckham, Victoria Pena, Shannon Etter Thompson, Lidia Torres, Darnell Vandivort, Pauline Webb, Carol White, Connie Turner Wilson, Mike Yont

Homebound & Home Communion Prayers

Lynise McDonald, Frances Evans, Cara Irvin, Ruby Power, Marty Wells, Jan Sanders, Bert Nelson, Joan Brown

Entered into Heaven

We lift up the following families in prayer

Mildred Moore passed away March 11th. Private services were held on March 14th.

Shirley Sharp passed away on March 28th. Services will be announced at a later time.

Birth Announcement

Jerrold and Jamie Walker gave birth to a baby girl on Monday, March 9th. The baby's name is Chloe Lane and joins big sister Reagan. Grandparents are Ben and Anita Walker and her Great Grandmother is Robbie Bedker.

Team 6 served green cake at St. Benedicts on Saint Patrick's Day



FCC Parking Lot
Service.
March 22

APRIL 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, Just because He lives! "Because He Lives," Bill Gaither</p>					
<p>He is risen indeed!</p>						
5 PALM SUNDAY Wherever you worship today, praise God that He has saved us! With Christians around the world, proclaim, "Hosanna!"	6 Pray that God guide and protect Pastor Paul as he leads our church through these unprecedented times. Pray for wisdom in all decisions.	7 For health care personnel on the front lines of this crisis. May God strengthen and protect them; may they know our appreciation.	8 Pray that God move our leaders to seek His guidance in hard decisions. Pray for Lubbock's mayor and those who advise.	9 MAUNDY THURSDAY Take time in silence to read 1 Cor. 11:23–26. Remember Jesus' words; reflect on His sacrifice; rest in the eternal hope it brings.	10 GOOD FRIDAY In the spirit of FCC's annual 24-hour prayer vigil, spend extended time praying over our church, individuals, community, nation, & all on your prayer list.	11 Pray for FCC family and friends who are aging and home-bound during these days of isolation. Do things to encourage those you know.
12 EASTER Christ is risen! May the joy of that truth overshadow anxiety and energize us to find creative ways to share the gospel in uncharted times.	13 Pray for teachers, school children, and families. Pray God's extra grace upon those with limited resources, like our Bean kids & families.	14 For the homeless and most vulnerable in our community, and for ministries like St. Benedict's to continue safely to help them.	15 For God's healing upon those ill with the virus; His presence with the hospitalized; His comfort upon all who lose loved ones.	16 Pray for our Child Development Center and children, staff, and families. Pray wisdom in decisions about the CDC during this crisis.	17 For those whose jobs and finances are impacted. Thank God for the benevolent help FCC provides. Ask how you can help.	18 Pray for God to be magnified and glorified and that many will come to know Him through this crisis. Ask God to show you your role.
19 Focus on praying the Lord's Prayer today. Ask God to calm your heart as you rest and trust in Him. "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done."	20 Ask God to guide and protect church staff as they continue to serve FCC. Pray for Jim, Mary, Donna, Marlene, and Frank.	21 Ask God to undergird all FCC ministries in this trial. Pray for Scott, Derek, Lou, Brittny, Darryl, Bob, and Arlano.	22 May God draw FCC members and friends to stay strong through Bible study and prayer during this time apart.	23 Pray for our church custodians: for Esmo, Gabe, and Dion. May God bless, protect, and support them and their families.	24 May God nudge us to selfless generosity, so FCC will maintain adequate financial resources to minister in Christ's name.	25 Pray for spiritual and physical health of FCC's members and friends. May we trust in our God of hope, per <i>Romans 15:13</i> .
26 "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!" Focus today on gratitude as you praise and thank God for blessings past, present, and future.	27 Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide FCC care ministries to operate in creative ways, so that "no one walks alone at FCC."	28 Pray for our children, youth, and families: that relationships be strengthened within families and with our Heavenly Father.	29 That God bless and strengthen Christians facing persecution and new health dangers. May their witness glorify God.	30 Pray for the Holy Spirit to keep bonds of fellowship and love alive and well in all small groups for all ages at FCC.		

THE LIGHT (USPS Periodical Permit #018-943)

Published monthly January—December
by First Christian Church, Inc.

2323 Broadway Street, Lubbock, TX 79401-2916.

Periodical postage paid at Lubbock, TX.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to

**“The Light” at 2323 Broadway Street,
Lubbock, TX 79401-2916.**

Especially for:

Worship Times

Sundays:

Traditional Service:

10:00a.m.

West Parking Lot

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

8:30 a.m.-Noon

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 a.m.-Noon

OFFICE PHONE

806-763-1995

Fax: 806-763-5904

Family Life

Community Center

747-5962


Office Hours: 3-6 p.m.

The Light is
published monthly
January-December.

The Light informs
members of
congregational
news/activities

Managing Editor-
Mary Norman

APRIL Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 Phyllis Underwood	2	3 Miguel Santillan Mildred Cantrell Glen Lloyd	4 Juda McKinney Jill Nelson Cohen Thero
5 Nelda Jett Jackie Williams	6 Tommye Sue Blair Oscar Power Becky Yates	7 Robin Jerden Kay Kirkpatrick	8 Sherri Bowers Allison Robinson	9	10	11 Gary Duty
PALM SUNDAY						
12 EASTER 	13 Violet Young	14 Michael Cunningham Joe Don Ford Catherine Swindle	15 VaDonna Anthony Carol Cunningham John Fowler Pam McKelvy	16 Sue Power	17 Riley Sanders	18 Cheryl Kennedy Lincoln Ortiz Mary Smith
19 Irma Davis	20 Quentin Hight Dee Odorizzi	21 Brad Croom Steve McGaw Steve Odorizzi Alta Reeds	22 Cami Dodge Marcy Lawless	23	24 Megan Agnew	25 Ginger Brown Jeanie Chavez Rachael Delarosa
26 Wynne Hutcherson Joe Plowman	27 Nancy Stamps	28 Mike Letalien Glenys Young	29	30		

**We are in need of email address and updated
contact information for ALL our church family.
Please contact Mary Norman in the church office
to ensure your information is up to date.**