



THE GRAPEVINE

Columbus West Church

December 2020

Special All-Music Christmas Edition!!

We are excited to be planning our next "All-Music Service" for Sunday, 12/20/2020, 10:30 am. Make sure to plan to attend either LIVE here at CW Church in the Sanctuary, or via Facebook LIVE. (CW Church) Also, this would be a great opportunity to INVITE A FRIEND to join you!

We will be sharing some New Music as well as some Seasonal Favorites, maybe with a little Twist! Either way, it will be a wonderful celebration of the birth of our Savior and His wondrous Love for us. Heaven came down, and GLORY filled the World. Praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, truly the Reason for the Season.

How is the importance of remembering anniversaries illustrated in Scripture?

Anniversaries are so important to God that He built the life of his nation and the Christian world around them. **Who might well hold the world's record for expending the most time, energy, and money to honor a very significant Christian anniversary?** Keep read this issue of the Grapevine.



Hey Out There!

By Regina Sampson

Hello, can you believe we have almost made it through this year? People are talking about Thanksgiving and Christmas and how to make the holidays special while social distancing. I guess we will have to Facebook or Zoom with our families to include everyone this year. Life just isn't the same anymore. Everyone talks about the "new normal," well please forgive my rant but, I don't like the "new normal!"

I don't want to wear a mask and I don't want to keep 6 feet apart! I want to be able to hug whomever I want. I don't want to be separated from everyone else. I want to feel connected in a world that feels like it is drifting apart. I want to be able to visit my Dad in the nursing home! Ok, sorry about that, now that I got that off my chest let's talk.

How are you? Are you coping alright? Are you finding ways to live in the new normal? Are you finding ways to draw closer to God as we are forced to separate from those around us? I admit my walk with the Lord is on pretty shaky ground at the moment, my reading time is non-existent and my prayer time is sketchy at best. It's easier to just stare mindlessly at tv and not think at all. This is not how God intended me (us) to live our lives. I know I am struggling with depression and I am combating it by trying to be at church Sundays and Wednesdays, starting a bible study with a couple friends after Thanksgiving even if we have to do it by phone, and filling my mind with scripture and music. **There is a song by Matt Maher called "Alive and Breathing" that I have been clinging to. The chorus says, "Joy still comes in the morning, Hope still walks with the hurting, if you're still alive and breathing, Praise the Lord!"**

I know these things aren't going to put my life back together, only God can do that, but every small step I can take to get closer to God is another victory over the emptiness. I know God is with me, he is with each one of us as we go through this time and find our own ways to cope with it all.

Deuteronomy 31:6 says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you, He will never leave you nor forsake you." Because I know my God is a loving God, I know He is there to help me as I struggle through this "new normal" and He will be with you too.

**Tracy Milburn
CW Sports
Commissioner**

I am writing to inform you that there will be no CW Sports this year due to Covid 19. It was not an easy decision for us to make. We are looking at the safety of all that participate in CW Sports. There is just no way for us to keep the church sanitized throughout the game and practices. Also, we can't stop the game every time the ball is passed to a new

player to sanitize it. We plan to reopen the league next year.

Thank you to all the coaches and volunteers for all you have done for the league and the community in the past years. Please keep the nation, church, community and our children in your prayers as we move through these troubling times. Our hope is for you to stay safe at this time as well.



Christmas Hymn Sing Announcement
SING YOUR HEART OUT!

Here's your chance to raise your voice in songs of faith and joy and praise! Please let us know your favorite Christmas hymns and songs you would like to suggest for us to include in the month of December.

Many times we seem to sing our favorites, but, we might be missing YOUR favorite. Please email Dawn Watts @ robndawn@yahoo.com, send a message on CW Church Facebook or by calling the Church office @ 614-878-6808. If you are attending services in person, there are Hymn Request forms in

the Narthex. This will be fun to interact with each other and give your "Two-Cents" for special music for this Christmas Season.

In His Service,
Dawn E. Watts



Punctuality

The Parthian kings of Persia advanced westward against the expanding Roman Empire in 53 B.C. The two major military powers met in battle approximately one hundred miles west of Antioch in Palestine.

The well-disciplined Roman army proved no match for the skillful Persian cavalry. Seven Roman legions, each consisting of over 5,000 fighting men, were destroyed. Ten thousand Roman soldiers were captured and the myth of Roman invincibility was shattered.

Thirteen years later the Roman senate appointed Herod as king of the Jews and dispatched him to the eastern fringes of their empire to guard against future Persian aggression.

Herod relished his new position and power. He answered only to the emperor in Rome. Internal affairs were left completely in his hands, and Roman legate did not require the “puppet ruler” to pay tribute money.

Despite his newly acquired benefits, Herod recognized the precarious position of his kingdom. Anyone suspected of disloyalty or subversion was swiftly eliminated. Although there were minor uprisings and rivalries, Persia remained Herod’s greatest concern.

One day he became greatly alarmed when a Persian delegation entered his royal city. Their request to meet with the king caused further panic. Suspecting a plot, Herod increased the number of guards around the garrison and cautiously invited them into his presence.

The Persian representatives entered with impressive pomp and ceremony. These foreign officials were responsible to appoint the next king of the Persian Empire.

Herod’s eyes brightened with ambition, but his vain thoughts were quickly dispelled when the dignitaries announced that they had come to honor the next king of the Jews.

The startled sovereign bitterly thought to himself, “I am the king of the Jews.” He feigned interest in their mission and inquired as to the whereabouts of this new king. Finally, the delegation was dismissed with order to report back to the palace.

A short time later, the Persian noblemen knelt in the presence of the One whom they had traveled so far to honor. They presented royal gifts to Christ. Then they returned to their Persian capital.

When Herod realized that the delegation had left without returning to him, he attempted in vain to destroy the “rival” king.

The spiritual kingdom of Christ ultimately conquered the pagan Roman Empire. The empire then established the birth of Christ as the focal point of history so that all men would honor its anniversary.

*Today every time a date is written, it officially commemorates “the year of our Lord.”
--from Matthew 2:1-21*

Obedience

As we get into this month of the holiday, we spend a lot of time talking about Jesus' birth, which we should. One of my favorite stories of the season, next to the birth of Christ is the story of His forerunner. This story is interesting to me, because we see where the Lord chose a man who was serving Him, was disobedient, and still chose him as the father of the forerunner for His Son Jesus Christ.

Zacharias was in the temple at his appointed time. As he was serving, Gabriel appeared to him and told him that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son. Now, if you think back to the Old Testament, there was another fellow who was told by the Lord that he would have a son. The problem with both of them is that they were old. Their wives were barren. There was no way that they would be able to have children.

Zacharias didn't think that God would answer their prayer for children. Didn't think that it would happen, which was a different attitude than Abraham's. Because of this attitude, this *disobedience*, God closed his mouth and his ears. He went through the whole pregnancy without being able to talk or hear. Think about it, how many times has God told us to do something and we just sat back and questioned Him? We started with our excuses as to why His plan can't be fulfilled. It won't work. We start back peddling. *"God, I'll serve You. I'll do whatever you want me to do."* He shows us, He tells us, and then it's, *"I'm too old. I'm not educated enough. I'm not trained in that area. It's not my field. I'm too short. I don't have enough hair."* Get the picture?

God takes action. He shuts our mouths and our ears. That way we can't argue anymore and we can't listen to the voice of *man's* reason. (There are times I wish He'd shut down the internet and all those *surveys* people take). When He does this...we sit in silence, we sit in quiet, we wonder what is going on. *"Why is this happening to us?"* What really is happening is that God is just waiting for us to turn to Him. God is just waiting for us to follow through with what He has called us to do.

God is calling us to serve in the church, *"But God, but God, but God..."* Then we wonder why there isn't any power in our lives anymore. Then we wonder why there isn't worship anymore. Then we wonder why there is fighting and bickering going on all around us. Then we wonder why this is happening and why that is happening. Could it be that at the present time, we're deaf and dumb? God is ready, but we have to be in a place and willing to do what He tells us.

As long as we are going to go our own way we are in disobedience. God told Zacharias that he was going to have a son in his old age. That his son was not just going to be any son, but his son was going to be the forerunner to the Messiah. Zacharias doubted God and God struck him.

There came a time, after John was born, that they asked the child's name. Zacharias wrote down his name. The name that God had told him. Once he obeyed, God lifted the discipline and healed him. As soon as he got it right, as soon as he focused his eyes, as soon as he obeyed, he was restored. Look, God calls us. He wants us to serve. Our mission is important. If we obey, there is great reward. Not that it will be easy. There was ridicule, questioning, and

hard times for John and Zacharias, but God blessed. But when we disobey, discipline comes. This holiday season, chose to follow God. Follow Him in all that you do. Don't let His calling go unanswered. Don't go *deaf and dumb* this year. Taken from Luke 1:67-70

The third year I lived in South Asia, I read through the entire Bible chronologically in 6 months. I loved using

Sheltering in God

colored pencils to mark verses, make connections and just spending time listening to Him through His Word. I'm convinced that soaking myself in God's Word is how I survived that particular assignment.

The intense heat (which meant sleeping under wet sheets at night - my friends in the middle east gave me this tip and it 100% works), the surprisingly loud and destructive termites (in my bedframe), the isolation in spite of living in an orphanage with over a hundred wonderful girls, and the stress of completing chronological Bible storytelling projects in six languages in under a year was **HARD**.



I'm sure that it's only by God's grace and His Word infused in me that sustained me through it all.

Fast forward to having 2 daughters under the age of 3. While we have air conditioning, and the red ants usually stay outside, **my need for God's Word is the same now as it was then**. As I continue to share Bible stories with Lily, and as she asks questions, including this one "*Where did Coronavirus come from?*" and this one just the other day: "*Who made God?*" I realize that I want to be able to answer her as best as I can with truth from scripture. Of course, this means that I need scripture to be inside of me, or a continual part of my life.

I heard of this phrase, "**Sheltering in God**" from a devotional I receive through my workplace. It came, of course in the midst of COVID19 quarantine, or 'sheltering in place.' I longed to provide a peaceful, joyful, enjoyable quarantine situation for my family, but am pretty sure that our home during season could be described as stressful, confusing, and tense.

I know that I need to "shelter in God" myself if I want to change my heart's posture from perfection to peace and from control to contentment. It is not a matter of not having enough time. We all have time for what we prioritize. It's time (again) that I start seriously prioritizing God's Word in my life, for my sake, and the sake of those around me.

Elizabeth Eno

Merry Christmas

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ANGEL
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 BETHLEHEM
 NAZARETH
 ZACHARIAS
 STAR
 MICHAEL
 JESUS
 MARY
 SHEPHERDS
 JOSEPH
 ELIZABETH
 MAGI

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