

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD-GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

March 3, 2019

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

And the one who was seated on the throne said.

"SEE, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW."

Lighting of the Candles

"The Spirit will guide you into all truth" John 16

5 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Sharing Christ's Peace

75 I was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"Wherever your foot may rest, he has passed..." Caussade

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

With you beside us, we do not fear

WHEN WE CALL TO YOU, YOU ANSWER, SETTING US ON A NEW PATH, AMEN.

THE LESSON 1 John 3: 1-3

The Meditation "Something Unimaginably Wonderful" Rev. Rob Carr

There is no one like your Servant, God of Holiness and Grace, Jesus our Companion,
WALKING IN YOUR INTEGRITY, CALLING US TO FOLLOW HIM INTO THE KINGDOM.

Walking in peace with you, he invites us to set aside all differences and divisions.

FORM US TO LIVE AS ONE WITH YOU

INTO THE PATH OF GENTLE COMPASSION, HUMBLE SERVICE, JOYFUL HOPE, AMEN.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

"Chariot Spiritual" Men's Ensemble

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

408 Come Share the Lord

Lord Jesus, Eternal Splendor, on this day given us by the Father's love

DO NOT LET US LOSE SIGHT OF YOU

But always bring us back to the light of your face

FOR YOU REIGN FOREVER AND EVER

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

In celebration of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ

WE OFFER OURSELVES IN PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

As a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us

AS WE PROCLAIM THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

CHRIST HAS DIED, CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

The Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation

Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

93 Praise Him Praise Him vs 1

Gracious Beloved, help us to welcome the light and walk in it always

SHOW US THE WAY WE MUST GO TO ETERNAL DAY, AMEN

TO OUR GUESTS-----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via

Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

1 John 3: 1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Within us, among us, before us,
CHRIST IS COME TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

All shall be well, and all shall be well,
and all manner of thing shall be well.

Julian of Norwich

Our BIG WORD series wraps up today with the final BIG WORD---SECOND COMING. Our series wraps up more or less where the Gospel story wraps up-----with the assertion that the risen Christ, having been now carried back into the Mystery of God's Being (we call that the Ascension) has yet one more mission or calling or destiny-----to return and in returning, to reign as Lord in an earthly dimension, perhaps a re-created risen dimension of a new earth, a new Jerusalem.

In other words, "love wins," to recall the title of Rob Bell's most controversial book. The time is coming when the creation will be healed and all humanity will be of one heart, in Christ and with Christ. All will be forgiven. Peace and mercy will prevail.

History is going somewhere. This was the holy intuition of the earliest Hebrews as they began to discern the ways of the Divine in their hearts. Abraham was called by God to pick up and go to a land that God would show him---and so the story of God's relationship with humanity began, a story of humanity's awakening to God's presence in the world and in the soul as a capacity for limitless love, and enlightened wisdom, whereby humanity would beat it's swords into plowshares, come into communion, into a wholeness, a shalom, the commonwealth of God, the Body of Christ.

Let's look at the text I've chosen today as a point of meditation on all this. Can you see the forward movement here? The energy of transformation which is the energy of the resurrection, the loving pull of God upon the creation and especially upon humanity?

We are God's children NOW. The world does not know us as such. Remember how most folks did not know God was walking around in their midst when Jesus was walking around?

Same with us.

PLUS---the worldly sensibility IN US does not know that we are God's children now. We struggle to take this in-----it's too wonderful perhaps---or too mysterious.

We are God's children now, and by this the writer might mean that we have awakened, so to speak, we have come to see that love is all, God is love and love is the preeminent energy in the creation, not hate, not violence, not fear. This writer says elsewhere that perfect love casts out fear. It's having the mind of Christ. It's having clarity that the resurrection has liberated us from the fear of death, and robbed worldly power from its reliance on death as a tool of domination.

So---we are God's children now. And then can you see the forward motion? **WHAT WE WILL BE HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED.** But we DO know that when HE is revealed, we will be like him for we will see him as he is.

There is a "yet to be revealed" fullness of being for those of us who are God's children now. Being God's children is not the end of the life God intends for us to experience with God.

The resurrection opens up the human imagination. If Christ is risen, what are God's intentions for us all? For the creation?

This imagining of the fullness of time, the end of history, or the "Omega Point" is what we mean by the fancy church word---eschatology. The God who called and calls the world into being in every moment MUST have designs on it. The early church was clear that in the risen Christ we were given a glimpse of God's designs for all things and all people. A new creation, or a renewed creation, a risen creation. The story that began with Abraham became very exciting and compelling indeed on Easter morning.

The staggering array of possible scenarios for how God's designs on the world will play out is numbing. Millennialism. Pre-millennialism. Post-millennialism. It goes on and on. The word Apocalypticism shows up a lot. These various schools of eschatological thought are amazingly intricate and detailed. How necessary is that? For some folks it's the primary preoccupation of their Christianity. Some denominations are primarily oriented around their uniquely formulated scenarios of the end times----their pitch is that they have teased out of the Bible the correct scenario and so we need to join their cause. We've all heard of groups in every century (maybe every decade) since the resurrection claiming to have determined an exact day of Christ's return-----only to be disappointed.

These various Millennialist scenarios can get very detailed, but there ARE some real world implications. Some of these scenarios expect Jesus to come and take his people out of this worldly plane SO WE DON'T NEED TO CARE FOR THE CREATION. Other scenarios expect the church to be at work becoming, under the Spirit's influence, an ever more enlightened and loving and expanding presence in the world, very much committed to THIS WORLD as the locus of Christ's return, as we allow the power of the resurrection to have its way with us

I am inclined to favor the latter of these broad approaches. It attaches a beautiful sense of meaning and purpose to all we do to BECOME peace, and to work for peace in this worldly plane. We are graced to be participants in something unimaginably wonderful that God is bringing about-----the ending of the book of Revelation pointing to a world of shalom, where God is everywhere to be experienced in perfect communion with the human family.

When he is revealed..... we will be like him.....the second coming of Christ might be, amazingly, a humanity fully alive in his spirit, having been inspired and awakened by the church, his body, you and me, today, tomorrow, and beyond, teaching the world what grace looks like.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

Monday 6PM Troop 90
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900
WEDNESDAY 7PM ASH WEDNESDAY AT HOLY FAMILY
Thursday 6PM Girl Scouts
Saturday 430PM Sherry Yoder Music Student Recital

UPCOMING

REGIONAL DISCIPLES WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT AT TALL OAKS
MARCH 8-9

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN MARCH 13 6PM

REZOUND BELL CHOIR IN CONCERT APRIL 14 3PM

EASTERTIDE RETREAT APRIL 26-28 MARILLAC CENTER

YOU, ME AND THE ENNEAGRAM MAY 11, 16, 23

JULY 22-23 DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DES MOINES

Keep these items in mind as you consider the remarkable ministry of our friends at CHERITH BROOK with those experiencing homelessness. Blankets Blankets Blankets! Tennis Shoes, Cold Meds, Band-aids, Bike Locks, Gloves, Hats, Chapstick, Belts of any size, men's and women's undergarments. Cherith Brook Local Honey for Sale! Contact Eric 816-241-8047