

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

May, 2020

Justice

Seek Justice, Encourage the Oppressed

When I was growing up, I was a big fan of the television series called the Adventures of Superman. To this day, Superman is one of my favorite fictional superheroes. I believe most people in my age group would recognize the beginning of the opening lyrics to the Superman television series:

“Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall building in a single bound!” (“Look up in the sky!” “It’s a bird!” “It’s a plane!” “It’s Superman!”).

“Yes, It’s Superman...strange visitor from another planet, who came to Earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men!” Though for me, it’s the last part of the opening lyrics which have endeared me to the fictional Superman.”

“Superman... who can change the course of mighty rivers, bend steel with his bare hands, and who, disguised as Clark Kent, mild mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper, fights a never-ending battle for truth, justice, and the American way!” It’s this never-ending battle for truth, justice, and the American way that has always resonated with me. I believe people from all over the world hold dear and embrace the basic principles of truth and justice.

The truth is, justice is not always evident as in the fictional superhero stories I grew up watching. As Christians we know God is loving and just. But, have you ever questioned the justice of God?

The prophet Jeremiah had days when he seriously questioned the justice and fairness of God: “*Why does the way of the wicked prosper?*” he cried out in a moment of intense confusion and anguish. “*Why do all the faithless live at ease? You have planted them, and they have taken root; they grow and bear fruit. You are always on their lips but far from their hearts.*” Jeremiah 12:1-2 (NIV).

Having been blessed to grow up in this country, it was common during my school days, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Within its words, it contains some of the enduring core principles of our nation:

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.”

This leads me to ask the question, “Is there justice for all in the world?” Why is it that most of us have suffered injustice at the hands of someone else?

Focus on the Family had this to say in an article with the title, “Pain, Injustice, and God’s Love.”

“Perhaps the most extensive and best-known scriptural illustration of this same matter is found in the Book of Job. Job was “*blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.*” Job 1:1 (NIV). In despite of this, he experienced terrible sufferings. He lost seven sons, three daughters, and all his property in a single day. After that, he was deprived of his

(Continued on next page)

health and his self-respect. It all came about simply because Satan thought it would be interesting to see how he would respond. And God allowed it to happen.

“Was that fair? Was it just, loving, and kind of the Creator to stand aside and let this avalanche of tragedy and pain come crashing down on the head of a good man? This is the question the rest of the book of Job seeks to address.

“The remarkable thing is that the question never receives a direct answer. In fact, when God finally speaks to Job out of the whirlwind (Job 38:1), He treats the question as if it’s beside the point. Justice is not the issue; He seems to say. Life in a fallen world can never be fair. It’s not about balancing the scales of justice or getting your just rewards (we all have had troubles). On the contrary, it’s about a relationship with Jesus. It’s a question of embracing mystery along with mercy and grace. It’s a matter of clinging desperately to the hand of Someone who, while He is obviously neither safe nor predictable, He is unquestionably trustworthy and good. This is what we need to remember whenever we find ourselves in Job’s position. Job expresses it this way in the final chapter:

“I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge? Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. You said, Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me. My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:2-6 (NIV)

“That’s not the last word, of course. Because when all’s has been said and done, the ultimate key to this puzzle is not found with Job, or Jeremiah. It comes to us in the Good News of the Gospel. In the final analysis, God does not resolve the problem of unjust human suffering by explaining it. Instead, He enters into it. In the person of Jesus Christ. He experiences what it is like to be unfairly accused, arrested, tried, condemned, beaten, reviled, spit upon, and put to death. An innocent man, He bears the penalty while Barabbas, a criminal and an assassin, goes free. He takes upon Himself the burden of our anguish and pain. He drinks the cup to its dregs. He does not murmur or complain. In so doing, He demonstrates His love for us and sends us this unmistakable message: the answer to the question of justice is not found in fictional superheroes or national pledges. The answer is Jesus.”

God’s Word is perfectly clear. *“Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.”* Isaiah 1:16-17 (NIV)

If you follow God and trust in Him, He will bless you.

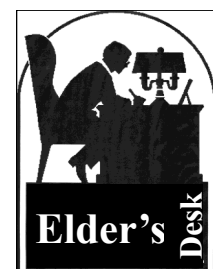
“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV).

May the Lord bless you and your family.

In Christ’s Service,

Tim Kasza

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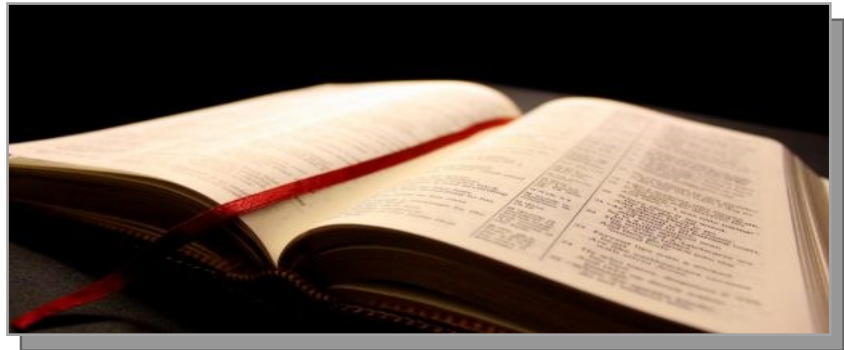
TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!



Audio Sermons / Sunny Place Church of God

901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Sunny Place is a church that desires to connect families and individuals with the love of Christ. Join us on Sunday Morning at 10:45 for Worship.

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held April 1, 2020

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Ted Gehman, Scott Krout, Glenda Kasza and Nona Koivula

Prayer and Devotion: "I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber;
Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD watches over you - the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life;
The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." *Psalm 121*

Ministry Reports:

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$2,118.59 Giving for March \$15,650 Expenses:\$12,037.71

Worship & Prayer: Wanda Sowell created a four act play which will be presented during the Palm Sunday Worship Service. The participants will rehearse on Friday. Effie will connect with the families who previously participated in Worship to learn if they are led by our Lord to lead Worship singing during our Zoom Worship on Sundays. Effie will also use YouTube or Videos for worship.

Christian Education & Fellowship: The Zoom meetings are working; as evidence there were 35 people who attended the Thursday evening Bible Study last week. There is a meeting for young adults; Wednesday Connect led by Jacob Garcia. Sunny Place will continue to use Zoom for meetings as long as the CDC does not allow meetings with more than 10 people.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement : The Encouragement team is actively communicating with the Body of Christ with cards and phone calls. This week each family will receive palm fronds and a package containing a communion wafer & juice set for each family member and an Easter devotional book. The palm is to celebrate Palm Sunday. Communion will be shared on Easter Sunday.

Outreach & Missions: The Missions Festival planned for May is postponed. Phyllis said there may be a missionary as a special speaker. The Outreach ministry had a meeting last Sunday and decided to call the people who attended the Saturday Senior Luncheon by phone for continued contact and a wellness check. The ministry wants these seniors to know our church is thinking about them and will address their prayer needs.

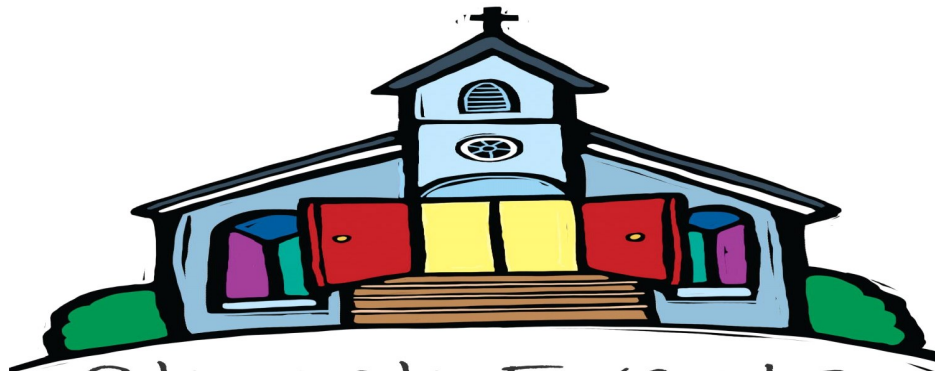
Stewardship & Support Services: Tim reported that he will check on our church regularly. He suggested we upgrade the internet service so that when the quarantine is lifted, people who are unable to attend church can participate using zoom for Worship service or Bible Studies.

New and Old Business

Pastor Pete encouraged the Elders and all to use Faithlife to remain in contact with the Body of Christ. There are Bible studies, TV shows, movies and other resources to use on Faithlife.

Next Elders meeting: May 6th, 2020

Sunny Place Church



Church Events

May, 2020



During the time we are under the coronavirus stay-at-home order, all of our Worship Services, Bible Studies and Meetings. will be held at the scheduled times on ZOOM. If you would like to join us for a service or study, send an email with your name and contact information to sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you.

You can also listen to the audio sermons, or watch the full video sessions of the services, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on: www.sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.



Sunday Mornings:

Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Church Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday



7:00 p.m.

Designed especially for young adults and youths.

A Spirit led time of hanging out, sharing thoughts, prayer, encouragement, Scripture reading, and more.

7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays
TOGETHER

A time to share with others:
stories and answers
of how the Lord has
answered prayers in your life

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m.

**“The Lessons of
the Kings”**



A Study of the four books of the Kings.

Led by Pastor Pete