

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

April, 2021

Greatness Expressed Best

When considering greatness, many things come to mind, but foremost, I think of the unmistakable greatness of our triune God. He is holy, incorruptible, all-knowing, all-powerful, majestic, loving, just and glorious.

Psalm 8:1 says: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens."

Let's consider God's greatness as revealed through scripture, beginning with the words of God himself. What does God tell us about his greatness? One place we find his words is in the book of Job.

In the story of Job, the man whom God spoke of as "blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil" (Job 1:8), we read the account of Job's tragic circumstances brought upon him by Satan, and we see how Job and his friends respond to the calamity in Job's life. To be concise, Job's friends are convinced Job must have sinned, while Job bemoans his losses, defends his righteousness, and then accuses God of being unjust. God's response to Job is truly amazing. He poses questions to Job by describing his own power, majesty and greatness. Here is a brief excerpt from Job 38:4-10.

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone - while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed the limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, . . ."

God continues to describe his authority, power, and character which are truly remarkable! In the end, Job says "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. "

Scripture also says many things about the greatness of the Son. "But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven." (Heb 1:2 -3)

Colossians 1 and 2 beautifully depict the supremacy and glory of Christ. Colossians 2:9 -10 says "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

During Jesus' ministry, the people saw the greatness of his power as demonstrated in his unequalled miracles, authoritative teaching, and sacrificial love. Throughout the gospels, we see example after example of the greatness of Jesus expressed through his compassion and desire to see all people reconciled to him, ultimately expressed on the cross, where Jesus took our place. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a

GREATNESS

(Continued on next page)

man lay down his life for his friend.” (John 15:13)

What does scripture say about the greatness of the Holy Spirit? To answer that, we need to consider the Spirit’s purpose, which is to enable the Church.

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:7-11), is our helper (John 14:26), gives wisdom (Isaiah 11:2), understanding (1 Cor. 2:10), power (Acts 1:8), spiritual gifts (1 Cor.12:1-11), guidance (Romans 8:14), discernment (Heb 5:14), and intercedes on our behalf (Romans 8:26).

Who, then, ought we to be?

For those of you who remember, Mohammed Ali, born Cassius Clay and nicknamed ‘the Greatest’, he was a gold medal Olympic boxer and one of the best known American professional boxers. He would often say of himself, “I’m the greatest!”. I remember his frequent boasts well. Cassius Clay considered himself great because of his boxing abilities, but what about the rest of us? Are we great? We were, after all, created in the image of God? What does scripture say about human greatness? Is it the kind that Mohammed Ali boasts of?

When we look at the patriarchs and the prophets, those whom we consider great, it was because of their faith and obedience. While the church can look at these men and women as examples of doing great things, the answers to the church’s greatness lies in the example of Jesus.

Philippians 2:5-11 “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue

acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In Matthew, we find that the mother of James & John came to Jesus to ask that her sons sit at his right and left in his kingdom. She was asking that her sons would be glorified (great). The disciples became indignant, but how did Jesus respond?

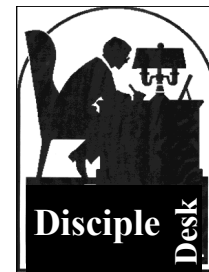
“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - just as the son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mat 20:27-28)

In the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:14), Jesus said “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Ultimately, Jesus expressed greatness best when sharing the two greatest commandments: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37)

In Christ,

Effie



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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!



Sunny Place Church is open for Sunday Morning Services

Some COVID safety restrictions will apply:

- A mask is required anytime you will be walking around. Once seated, in the sanctuary or at a class in the Fellowship hall, mask can be removed.
 - Masks will be required if the congregation is asked to sing.
 - Sanctuary seating will be every other row
 - Please bring your own bibles.
 - Bible study classes in the fellowship hall, will have tables spread out, and can seat 4 at each table.
 - Social distance will be important inside the building, although gathering in the Narthex, Sanctuary, and Fellowship hall will be allowed.

Our Church has always been about connecting with God and one another in spirit. While many are ready to begin worship in a live setting, some are not. We will have zoom service available.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please contact us in order to have the invitations and links sent to you. The contact information is inside on the Church Events page.

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 March 3, 2021

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

Prayer and Devotion:

⁴“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. ⁵”And now what do I have there?” declares the LORD. “For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock,” declares the LORD. “All day long my name is constantly blasphemed. ⁶Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I.”

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” ⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God. *Isaiah 52:4-10*

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$1,645.28, Giving \$12,320.75, Expenses \$12,406.86

Worship & Prayer: Effie expressed her gratitude for the several Worship Team members who have volunteered to operate the devices during the Sunday Worship service. Effie and Sam are collaborating for the Good Friday Worship service on April 2.

Christian Education & Fellowship: Pastor Pete leads two Bible Studies each week. On Thursday evenings the study of David is offered on Zoom. The Sunday Bible Study is at church in-person and on Zoom.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Sam Jacob, leader of Pastoral Care, offers emotional, spiritual and relational support for our congregation. Contact Sam to arrange an appointment. The Encouragement team sends cards and flowers to support people facing a loss in the family or during a hospital stay.

Outreach & Missions: The Second Saturday Senior Luncheon continues. The seniors express their gratitude for this time together in prayer and the special home-made meals.

Stewardship & Support Services: The furnace was repaired and other maintenance issues have been taken care of as needed.

New and Old Business

- Pastor Pete has written a spiritual message and placed it on Faithlife on the Sunny Place Church of God page. If you have difficulty finding the article, please contact Jacob Garcia.
- On Maundy Thursday, April 1, Sunny Place will invite our congregation to share in the Lord's Supper, Communion and Foot Washing. This will not be held at church this year, and Pastor Pete will encourage families to continue this Holy Ordinance in remembrance of Jesus, at home and possibly sharing with other families.
- On Good Friday, April 2, there will be a Worship Service at Sunny Place, in-person and on Zoom, beginning a 7pm to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, His redemption for our sin, His death, and resurrection.

Next Elders meeting April 7, 2021



Easter is a time when you realize you are truly loved by Jesus!

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible will be held at the scheduled times. If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, 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, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on: sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.

Good
Friday
Service



Remembering
JESUS
His Promised Death & Resurrection

Friday, April 2nd, 7:00 p.m.
In-person & Zoom
Sunny Place Church



2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, April 10th,
11:30 am
Pick-up at Sunny Place
Church

Free for Seniors 55 & up.
Register now at
630/398-2314.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
"The Church of God
Revealed in Scripture"
Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



"Revealing Deep and Hidden Things"

A Study of the book of Daniel.

Led by Pastor Pete
On Zoom only