

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

June, 2021

Jesus Weeps With Us

"Jesus wept" (John 11:35). What powerful two words!!!

This is the shortest verse in the whole Bible, but it is one of the most powerful verses in the Scriptures. Let me share this account. Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus' body was buried. It was four days since Lazarus died. Jesus entered their world. He saw the weeping family members, faith leaders, and friends. Lazarus' death was overwhelming. Jesus observed all of it. He was "deeply moved in spirit," and He wept.

LOSS

The journey of loss is not easy. My daughter Sara recently wrote that loss might be the reason for the world's unrest and lack of peace. She added that what we see as a loss often is something that we think belongs to us in the first place. When we lose what belongs to us, it really hurts more. This is why loss is so powerful. When we lose something that belongs to us, we feel as if we lost a part of us. She said that as Christians, it is important to have boundaries with our "belongings" so our loss brings us closer to God instead of desperately filling the void with created things.

When I was 18 years old, I lost my Dad after a motor vehicle accident. Then a little after a decade, I lost my mom after a hysterectomy. I have journeyed from one loss to another. I know how it feels. It moved my inner world. I felt part of myself was dead and gone. When we lose someone dear to us, we feel as if we have lost a part of ourselves. Maybe we feel dead inside. Our fast-paced lifestyle may

need to slow down. Perhaps it takes us to a space where we can be more aware of ourselves. Maybe it brings us to a place of reflection. We may ask deep questions of life again. The loss appears to have power in our lives to help us to seek support. Even in the pitch dark of night, we can see the stars if we look up. I wonder, where are you looking for help and healing?!

Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

If we turn to God for help, seeking Him intentionally, we will find Him in the midst of our loss. I can share with confidence that no one can ever be as helpful and understanding as our Lord is. We can share anything and everything with Him. He will not misunderstand us or forsake us. He will not leave us alone. We can find hope and healing in Him again.

Paul, one of the greatest writers of Scripture, shared with the Philippian church that he counts all earthly achievements and attachments as loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus as his Lord:

"Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain

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Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." (Philippians 3:7-11)

My losses transformed me. They helped me know my Lord and Savior intimately and experience Him as Comforter. I understood that everything and everyone in this world would come and go. I realized that the only one who is there for me is my Lord and my Savior. Until we lose someone dear to us, we do not quite understand the actual value of God. When we have everyone and everything, we think that we have it all. We do not need God, His Word, or His body. I certainly believe that through our losses, we come closer to God and sense His comforting presence and the power of transformation.

Let me conclude by saying what happened as Jesus approached Jerusalem:
"He wept over it" (Luke 19:41).

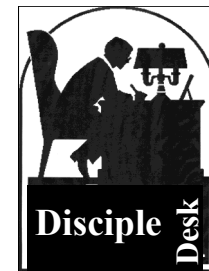
As Jesus began to enter Jerusalem triumphantly, the whole crowd joyfully praised God for the mighty works of miracles they had seen. A little while after, when Jesus came near to the city, He wept over their lack of understanding. They were spiritually lost. There were people who Christ wished to save, and longed to serve, but they were distracted by the things around them. Maybe they knew God; however, they did not value Him

enough. Instead, they began to create little gods in their minds, claiming to be wise, and they rejected the Source, Substance, and Spirit of abundant life. What a significant loss!

Once again, I remember Jesus saying how He longed to gather them like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but they were unwilling. Jesus wept over them!!!

Finally, I want to remind you that when we are going through loss, Jesus is weeping with us. He is waiting to help you. He wants everyone to come to Him. Would you reach out to Him?!

Sam Jacob



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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 May 5, 2021

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

Prayer and Devotion: “Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.” *Mark 8:34-38*

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$1,460.58 Giving \$12,698.43 Expenses \$14,622.05
Faith Promise for 2020-2021 fiscal year \$19,657.12.

Worship & Prayer: Our Worship Ministry leader, Effie, began a full time position on April 23. Effie knows the Lord led her to this employment and she is able to continue as Worship leader until the time the Lord calls her to leave this leadership at Sunny Place Church. A few small adjustments have been made within the team to prepare for the Worship Service on Sundays.

Christian Education & Fellowship: There will be a neighborhood garage sale on Saturday July 17. Our church was invited to participate. This is an opportunity to fellowship with our church neighbors. Our congregation will be able to take items to church sell on tables set up for the garage sale. There may be a food truck in the church parking lot. More details will be available in the near future.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Sam will offer grief counseling for those in need on the second Saturday of every month at our church from 9:30 to 11:30AM. Please call Sam to make an appointment. The Encouragement Ministry continues to send cards, flowers and Mother’s Day gifts.

Outreach & Missions: On May 8th there was a senior luncheon at church both in-person and drive-thru pick up. About 12 brave souls enjoyed fellowship outside under canopies set in front of our church. On May 2nd there was a Mission’s Sunday with Bobby & Jenny Mihsill our Living Link Missionaries to Cote d’Ivoire. After our Worship Service there was an International meal in Fellowship Hall. For the fiscal year 2020-2021 the Faith Promise budget was \$19,657.12 The Missions Ministry may be able to invite guest speakers from the projects we support to be with us on a quarterly basis.

Stewardship & Support Services: Daniel & Ellery Waters are no longer living in the parsonage. The parsonage is available for Ministry teams to use for meetings and other activities. The Stewardship Ministry decided not to continue to use a cleaning service for our church or parsonage. As a result the team has asked for volunteers to help clean the church possibly after the Worship Service. It requires about a half hour to clean the church. Please sign up or contact Tim Kasza. There will be a Work Day on Saturday May 15.

New and Old Business

- There will be a Church of God North American Convention in Denver CO from June 26 to 29. Pastor Pete Weber and Pastor Sam Jacob will attend the convention. For more information see jesusisthesubject.org This convention is available on-line or in person for a fee.
- Pastor Pete and Carla are planning a 4th of July Picnic at their home. Everyone is invited. More details will be available.

The next Elders meeting will be June 2, 2021



Community Garage Sale

Saturday, July 17th



We will be participating with our neighbors on the block with a joint garage sale.

Sunny Place participants can bring articles to sell at your own table in our back parking lot. You can keep or donate the amount you collect. We also need volunteers to help, sell NICE Foundation donations to help out their ministry.

This will also be a great time to meet our neighborhood families and show love to those who come our way.

What you do not sell at the sale, **you must take home.**

Let's make this a church family day! We might even have a food truck.

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.

WELCOME JUNE, WELCOME SUMMER



2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon
Saturday, June 12th, 11:30 am

Pick-up at Sunny Place Church
Free for Seniors 55 & up.
Register now at 630/398-2314.

Remember Father's Day, Sunday, June 20th



Happy
FATHER'S DAY



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.



**"The Gospel and the
Children of Abraham"**

A Study of the book of Galatians

Led by Pastor Pete
7:00 p.m. On Zoom only