

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

January, 2022

A Glorious Crown of Beauty

BEAUTY

It has been said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. That seems to hold true in most of what we experience in life. But have you ever met anyone who doesn't recognize beauty at all? Although we might not all agree precisely on what is beautiful, beauty is something we all have a sense of and recognize.

Beauty, it seems then, is all around us in some form or fashion. And therefore I would say that beauty is ubiquitous and pervasive. And I think the reason it is, is that God created us in His image.

We recognize beauty because God made us in such a way that we have the capacity to see beauty. He created a magnificent world and universe. He created wonderful plants and creatures. And His most beautiful of all are those He created in His image. We are amazing beings. So, whether you look through a microscope, or a telescope, or just with your naked eye, you see beauty. In whatever way you see beauty, it is there for you to enjoy.

Not everything is beautiful, however – not anymore, anyway. Over the millennia, the world and the Creation have been marred and corrupted by the effects of sin. I'm not only talking about the physical effects, but also the human toll it has taken. Selfish hearts have taken advantage of others. People are oppressed, abused, and scandalized.

That, as we know, is the reason, God recognized from the beginning that a plan of salvation for the world would be needed. The heart of the LORD was broken by the sin and violence that He foresaw, and actually transpired in the course of time. So, the Holy Spirit revealed to the prophets that a Savior would come. This Savior was to be the Anointed One, God in flesh, the Son of God. And He would bring beauty back to a remnant of those who were burdened because of sin and would cry out for His mercy. Listen to the words of the prophet:

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,
3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion, to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

Isaiah 61:1-3

You might recall that Jesus repeated these words in the synagogue of His hometown, and said, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:21) It is a beautiful passage that reflects the compassion and love He has for the brokenhearted and oppressed, and the comfort He seeks to bring them. But notice in verse 3 of the Isaiah passage, that instead of the ashes of grief and mourning they had been suffering through, He would bestow on them *beauty* – oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Jesus came into this world to save the hurting and lost – to break the chains of those enslaved by their sins. He fulfilled what the Holy Spirit announced and Isaiah penned. But we don't want to miss the crown of beauty that He bestows. He adorns us with beauty. All that was soiled and marred is washed away, and we are given new garments, and at last, the crown of beauty.

But what exactly is this crown? ... Isaiah has the answer.

5 In that day the LORD Almighty will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath for the remnant of his people.

6 He will be a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, a source of strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

Isaiah 28:5-6

Jesus, Himself, is the crown of beauty. He adorns the heads of those who turn to Him for salvation with His glory. And what could be more beautiful than that. ... The Scripture says:

1 The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

2 From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.

Psalms 50:1-2

Jesus came to do what was needed to save His Creation. He completed the mission at great cost – He gave His life for us. ... He gave His life for *you*.

It was for *all* the lost that He came and died. And He speaks out and summons the earth to come and find that crown of beauty. ... But only a remnant wears the crown.

So he calls us, who wear His glorious crown, to go out with His message of beauty – His message of hope and salvation for the lost – to bring the good news to a world that still needs to hear it. There is a glorious crown of beauty awaiting them ... and you – all who would bow to Jesus, as Savior. He *is* the glorious crown. He is God, the Son.

Isaiah, again, has the words by which we are sent:

7 How 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!"

Isaiah 52:7

Blessing in the Name of Jesus,
Pastor Pete



Connect

Published by:

Sunny Place Church of God
901 E Oak St, Addison IL 60101
Church Office (630) 530-1830
Editor: Lynn Drury

Senior Pastor: Peter Weber
Treasurer: Glenda Kasza
Elders: Tim Kasza, President
Phyllis Clark, Vice President
Nona Koivula, Secretary
Ted Gehman, Director
Sam Jacob, Director

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

Via Zoom every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!



Sunny Place Church is open for Sunday Morning Services

We are happy to announce that the COVID-19 policy at Sunny Place has come to an end. The level of risk has lowered significantly to the point where we can allow masks to be optional. There will also be no social distancing limits or roped off pews.

We are grateful to God for taking us through this unusual and challenging ordeal. He has kept us safe and provided for us in many ways so that we could continue in worship and ministry throughout the entire fourteen plus months.

We will continue using Zoom for some waiting to finish getting vaccinated or transitioning to in-person activity. If not vaccinated and have not had COVID-19, we recommend you wear a mask. But the decision is up to you.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please send us an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you

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 December 1, 2021

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

Prayer and Devotion: “What does a worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men, yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil – this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him. Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.” *Ecclesiastes 3:9-15*

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$2,255.91 Giving \$13,042.85 Expenses \$18,907.65 Faith Promise \$6,170

Worship & Prayer: There will be Worship Wednesday Dec 15 at our church at 6pm. Effie will explain the spirit of Worship Wednesdays and ask people to consider hosting this event at their home as a spiritual act of hospitality. The Worship Ministry wants to continue Worship Wednesdays through 2022. Ruth and Nona will be contacting people on the prayer list to learn if Jesus has answered the prayer.

Christian Education & Fellowship: Pastor Pete will begin two Bible studies. On Sunday mornings at church and on Zoom he will lead us through the Sermon on the Mount. On Thursday evenings, Pastor Pete will begin a study on the Holy Spirit. Beginning next year there will be in-person Bible Studies on Thursday evenings at church and on Zoom.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Sam offers face to face Pastoral care for anyone in need. He is available Sundays and on the second Saturday prior to the Senior Luncheon. Cards of encouragement are being sent to the Body of Christ.

Outreach & Missions: The Senior Luncheon will be Dec. 11. The Senior lunches will continue in 2022 on the second Saturday of each month. Laura Grafer has expressed interest in offering hands-on craft sessions on Saturdays once a month for seniors. This would happen in the near future. For the Outreach ministry there are plans to give a gift bag to our neighbors for Christmas. Also Phyllis is working on upgrading our Sunny Place website.

Stewardship & Support Services: The church and parsonage are being taken care of as necessary.

New and Old Business

- The Elder nominations were discussed. Sam Jacob requested that for the year 2021 and going forth into 2022 that funds paid him for preaching be designated as Housing Allowance as opposed to a guest speaker. Phyllis made the motion, Tim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- There will be an Open House at the Weber home on Sunday January 2.

Next Elders meeting: January 5, 2022 at 6:30pm



WELCOME
A BRIGHT
NEW YEAR!

Pastor's Open House

Sunday, January 2nd, 5:00 P.M.
At the home of Pete & Carla



Sunny Place Church — January Events

You are Invited

2nd Saturday Senior
Luncheon
Saturday, January 8th, 11:30 am

Sunny Place Church
Free for Seniors 55+
Register at 630/398-2314

Sunday, January 23rd
Following a pot-luck dinner

Annual Church
Business Meeting



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

"Jesus' Teaching for the Blessed"

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount.

Led by Pastor Pete

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



"A Counselor for You"

A Study of the Work of the Holy Spirit

Led by Pastor Pete

7:00 p.m. On Zoom only

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study 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.