



FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

FEBRUARY 20, 2018

WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S SS
11:00 A.M. FELLOWSHIP TIME ■ 11:15 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 25, 2018, SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

"HOW NOT TO BE SATAN "

Mark 8:31-38

Legend says that as Shoeless Joe Jackson was leaving the courthouse during the trial of the Chicago Black Sox, as they were known, a young boy begged of him, "Say it ain't so, Joe."

Well, Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly.

And Peter said, "Say it ain't so, Lord." Maybe, Peter rebukes Jesus because he understands what Jesus is saying. Peter once told Jesus, "We have left everything to follow you." A cross would mean no earthly kingdom. Instead of a sword (and we know that Peter owned a sword; a conceal and carry man), Jesus took up a cross.

Music: "Glorious Unfolding" — Higher Ground

*Dr. Kennedy's **Conversations With the Bible** will not meet today so that all may attend the Current Issues Class at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The topic: Homelessness in Our Community. Guest Speaker: Kevin Nowlan, Director of the Continuum of Care program.*

MARCH 4, 2018, THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

"COMMANDMENTS AND A TEMPLE "

Exodus 20:1-17, John 2:13-22

The season of Lent invites us to turn inward and reflect on the depth of human sin. The Exodus reading reminds us forcefully that we are far too casual about God's commandments and so apt to change commandments, temples, and churches into objects of our own idolatry. The fourth gospel's account of Jesus' cleansing of the Temple indicates that sin abounds in the very places where holiness should be most evident. Jesus' criticism of the money changers is not an unworldly assertion that money has no place in a place of worship. It is a prophetic act that points out how money is supposed to serve the cause of promoting faith, whereas in this case religious practice has been enlisted for the service of making money, and at the expense of vulnerable people. Just as sin infects the holiest of places, so it infects every aspect of our lives—as Paul ruefully says, "For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." What are the ways you see sin manifesting in your own life? Where are the places you encounter God's grace?

Music: "Appassionata " — Chancel Bells and "Even So Come" — Youth Band

*Dr. Kennedy's **Conversations With the Bible** will meet in the Chapel at 11:15 a.m. to discuss the scripture for March 11th: Numbers 21:4-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, and John 13:14-21.*

For this issue, Dr. Kennedy's article has moved inside to allow the article to be printed and viewed without separating the litany to two pages.

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LENTEN OBSERVANCE 2018 — FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PEORIA

"Getting ready for Easter means hard work and discipline. Therefore, I invite the family of God at First Baptist Peoria to a holy season of Lenten preparation. The invitation and intercessory prayer that follows is part of the ancient worship of the Church" (The Rev. Dr. Rodney Kennedy).

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel (bow) before our Creator and Redeemer.

THE GREAT LITANY (*The intercessory prayer was first offered in the 5th century. This was also the first English rite composed by Thomas Cramner in 1544. The King James Bible was printed in 1611.*)

Cantor: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

People: Have mercy upon us.

Cantor: O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People: Have mercy upon us. Cantor: O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

People: Have mercy upon us.

Cantor: Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forebears; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare Thy people, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy most precious blood, and by Thy mercy preserve us for ever. From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation, From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

People: Good Lord, deliver us. Cantor: From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil, People: Good Lord, deliver us. Cantor: From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of Thy Word and commandment, People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor: From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor: From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor: By the mystery of Thy holy incarnation; by Thy holy nativity and submission to the law; by Thy baptism, fasting, and temptation,

People: Good Lord, deliver us. Cantor: By Thine agony and bloody sweat; by Thy cross and passion; by Thy precious death and burial; by Thy glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Ghost,

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Cantor: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment,

People: Good Lord, deliver us. Cantor: We sinners do beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please Thee to rule and govern Thy holy Church universal in the right way, That it may please Thee to illumine all pastors, teachers, and deacons with true knowledge and understanding of Thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth and show it accordingly,

People: We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Cantor: That it may please Thee to bless and keep all Thy people,

People: We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Cantor: That it may please Thee to send forth laborers into Thy harvest, and to draw all people into Thy kingdom.

People: We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Cantor: That it may please Thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive Thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

People: We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Cantor: That it may please Thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

People: We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

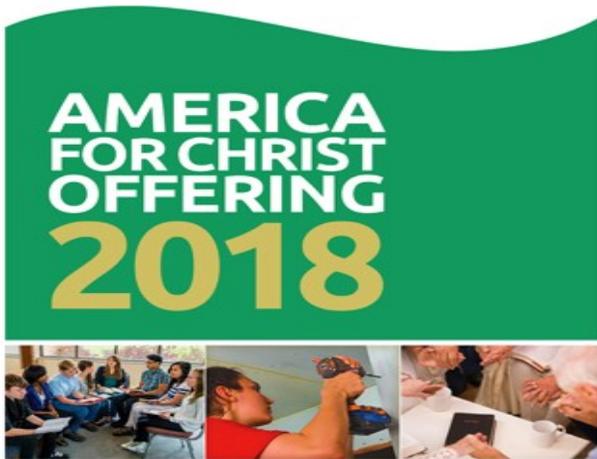
Cantor: That it may please Thee so to rule the hearts of Thy servants, our elected officials, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

People: We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Cantor: That it may please Thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

People: We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Cantor: Let us pray. Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in Thy Son's name: we beseech Thee mercifully to incline Thine ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto Thee; and grant that those things which we have asked faithfully according to Thy will may be obtained effectually, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of Thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



CULTIVATING
LEADERS
EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES
HEALING
COMMUNITIES
Ephesians 4:11-13

Dear First Baptist Friends,

Most of us are able to keep clear in our minds the origin and goal of Christian ministry. Its origin is in Christ, who gives spiritual gifts and gifted people to the church. Its goal is the building of the body of Christ in knowledge, faith and love. Less clear is the living, dynamic, God-appointed process that moves from origin to goal. Notice carefully what the following verses teach us. God gives to the church spiritual leaders whose role it is to equip saints for ministry.

The Apostle Paul echoes this truth in Ephesians 4:11-13: “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.”

God’s pattern for producing people with powerful faith and genuine love is not to have the pastors-teachers do all the work of the ministry. They are to equip the saints to do the ministry. They are you—all of you—who have set yourselves apart for God through faith in Christ. According to God’s pattern, the building of the body in faith and love is the immediate result of the ministry of laity.

The Lord Jesus Christ intends every member of the church to do the work of the ministry. The intention of ministry is to build up each other’s faith and love. God’s design is to use human support and encouragement to sustain the faith of his children and to lighten the burdens they bear in the service of love.

The America for Christ Offering (AFC) 2018 reminds us that it is in our service to the church and the community that many experience the Christ in us. We are encouraged by this year’s theme to come alongside people and build them up. I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC offering and help us to reach our goal as we partner in home mission.

In Christ’s Service,

Dr. Rodney Kennedy
Rodney Kennedy
Interim Sr. Pastor

Phil McAlearney
Phil McAlearney
Mission Board co-chair

Thelma Hopwood
Thelma Hopwood Interim
Offering Coordinator

THE MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO OUR CONGREGATION, THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Barb Petroski	Patricia Lang	Rose Kimpling
Ruth Turner	Pam Orrill	Jim Ashton
Marvin Olson	Rosemary Walk	Alyssa Russell
Wally Webber	Dorothy Cumming	Mary Hinch
Ruth Collins	Arlene Wise	Jacquelyn Kellogg

Dick Sternberg (Jo Sternberg's husband)
Peter (Grandson of Brenda Shay)
Stephanie George (Brenda Shay's daughter)
Charles Baker (brother of Eleanor Shelton & Ellen Woods)

RUMMAGE SALE

May 22, 2018

Early donations may be left at FBC in room 220, in boxes if possible.
No computer monitors or old TV's.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m., the Dining Out Group will meet at Obed & Isaacs, 321 NE Madison Avenue, Peoria.

Friday, March 2nd Church Women United will observe the World Day of Prayer with their first ecumenical celebration at Salem Lutheran Church, 1700 W. War Memorial Drive, Peoria. The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the theme will be "All of God's Creation is Very Good."

Saturday, April 14, 2018 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, GRR Area III Annual Meeting, To Know and Be Known — Making our churches known and attractive to our communities, at First Baptist Church of Peoria.

MERCI! GRACIAS! DANKE! GRAZIE!

and THANK YOU! for your loving prayers, thoughts, phone calls visits and delightful cards, thus making my knee replacement almost bearable while progressing nicely.

—Louise Heimann

BANDAGE ROLL THANK-YOU

Many thanks to all the women who rolled bandages on Tues., Feb 13th. We had 12 women: Carol Maulding, Candy Lacy, Sharon Stanard, Bonnie Connett, April Jacobs, Zene Baker, Joan Criswell, Bev Searcy, Nora Hughes, Thelma Hopwood, Janet Middleton and myself. We had a Great time, and will meet again in the Chapel on Tuesday, March 6th, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Lunch included.

—Carolyn Ihnken

SPRING CLEAN-UP

SAT., APR. 7TH, 9 AM AT FBC
BREAKFAST AT 8 AM
ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!