

Morning Worship

December 11, 2016

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Tim Waters

Piano — Sharon Waters

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Chorus # 82

Emmanuel

Tim/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Anthem

Joy to the World/

Worship Choir

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Hymn # 89

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Tim/People

Missions Moment

Allan/People

Hymn # 90

Carols Sing

Tim/People

Offering Prayer

John Lewis

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Sharon Waters

Anthem

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Worship Choir

Children's Worship

(Children are dismissed)

Scripture Reading

Allan/People

Message

Allan Lane

Hymn # 281

Speak to My Heart

Tim/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Chorus # 95

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Tim/People

Gifts for Your Enemies

Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 5:43-48

Is your shopping done? It seems like there is always that hard to buy for person. It always takes until Christmas Eve to settle for just the right present. It's fun to shop for our friends and family. But what do you get for your enemies? May make four suggestions?

1. Love .

Love your enemies. Agape your enemy. Love your enemy like you love God. Love your enemy like you love your closest Christian Brother.

This word love here is and action word. It really means doing the right thing for someone. It has nothing to do with warm fuzzy feelings.

You say, "But I can't. It's impossible." Then Jesus has asked you to do the impossible. And here's a question: If you loved your enemy, would they be your enemy for very long?

2. Prayer .

Pray for those who persecute you. When Jesus said that, I don't think he met that you pray bad fortune on your enemies. Maybe you should pray for their salvation? He Jesus forgave you, he'll forgive them. Maybe your enemy is a brother in Christ. Then you should pray God's blessing on them?

I'm not for sure what you Jesus met when He said pray for those who persecute you. But I do know this - He does want you to pray for your enemies. Are you doing it?

What a wonderful Christmas card you could send to someone who you have had a 10 year feud with. Dear Sir, I know we've not gotten along very well over the years, but this Christmas season, along with this card, I say prayers on your behalf. May God bless you this Christmas. Signed, Your name.

What would that do to your relationships? What kind of example would that be for your children? Why not give love and prayers to your enemies this Christmas? I believe that is what Jesus wants you to do (Romans 12:9-21).

3. Blessings .

Paul said, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. (Romans 12:14). I realize this is unnatural. If someone persecutes you, you don't want to give them a blessing you, you want to knock their socks off.

What does this word bless mean? It means *to praise*. Praise the one who persecutes you. It can mean give thanks. What, are we are supposed to say thanks for persecuting me?

If you look hard enough you can always find something to be thankful for, even in persecution. This word bless can mean one other thing. And that is to speak well of.

Do you find something good to say about those who persecute you?

4. Hospitality .

The passage in Romans speaks of offering food and drink and showing hospitality (verse 20). If you knew that one of your Christian brothers or sisters had a need, what would you do? You would do what you could to meet it. You should do the same thing for an enemy.

Conclusion

This morning I have suggested 4 gifts you should consider giving to your enemies. You should give them your love, your prayers, your blessings, and food and drink.

That is some heavy stuff. Don't leave this morning without knowing how to give these gifts. How do we wrap up these gifts?

1) Ask God for HELP . It may seem that God has asked to do the impossible, and maybe for you yourself it is impossible, but ask God for help and he will help you.

2) Forgive them. It doesn't matter who it is or what they have said, you must forgive them. It doesn't matter if it is a family member or a stranger, God doesn't care what they have done to you, He wants you to forgive them.

Matthew 6:14,15 says, "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

You won't be able to love your enemy until you forgive him. It will be impossible to bless someone who you are holding a grudge against. You are not likely to pray for someone you haven't forgiven.

3) Treat them fairly . Treat them the way you want to be treated. In your anger you might think, well, I don't care what my enemy says about me. Or maybe you find yourself thinking, "Let him try to hurt me".

4) Practice Humility . Remember you are not perfect. When you realize you have made some of the same mistakes as your enemy it's easier to treat them like God wants you to treat them.

5) Give them the benefit of the doubt. Many of you have harbored feelings, you are holding grudges, you curse your enemies, you watch them like hawks waiting for them to mess up. If you can't treat your enemies the way God wants you to at

Christmas time, you probably never will. Won't you make this holiday season the one where you give these great gifts, not only to your loved ones, but also to your enemies.

Richard Wurmbrand tells the story of a church leader he met while imprisoned in Romania who was sentenced to 22 years for his goodness. The man, his wife, and six small children were eating breakfast when the police burst into his home. They had just read Psalm 23.

When the police arrested him, the minister said, "You are the fulfillment of what we have prayed today. We just read...that God prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies. We had a table but we had no enemies. Now you have come. If you would like anything that is on the table, I would like to share it with you. You are sent by God."

The captain screamed. "How could you speak such stupid things? We will take you to prison where you will never come out. You will die there. You will never see your children again."

"We have also read about this today, that I pass through the valley of the shadow of death and will not fear it."

"How in the world should you not fear this?" shouted the officer. "Everyone fears death!"

"...The shadow is not something to fear," the minister said calmly. "A shadow of a dog can't bite you, and a shadow of death can't kill you. All these things are shadows. We will have another life and not only one of this world. We can be killed. We can be put in prison. Nothing bad can happen to us. We're in Christ, and He takes us to another world."

The church leader was taken to prison and his wife and six children were deported, but he knew that he had a God who would take care of them.

A reporter was interviewing an old man on his 100th birthday. "What are you most proud of?" he asked him.

"Well," said the man, "I don't have an enemy in the world."

"What a beautiful thought! How inspirational!" said the reporter.

"Yep," added the centenarian, "I've outlived every last one of them."

Don't Just Out Live Them – Out Love Them!

Rejecting the Gift

Have you ever receive a bad Christmas gift? Here's the top five most overheard comments regarding bad Christmas gifts.

5. *Hey, now there's a gift.*
4. *If the dog buries this, I'll be furious.*
3. *I love it – but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.*
2. *Shucks, and I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.*
1. *This is a perfect gift for wearing around the basement.*

We tend to think of Jesus as the ultimate gift, and that's true. But there are many who reject the gift. What causes them to do that? Here are some reasons.

1. *They don't like the wrapping.* They see the outward trappings of religion and not the fact that, while the wrapping is imperfect, the gift itself is perfect. They see imperfect Christians, some of whom are just Christians in name only, but don't really believe in Him, love and serve Him, and others who are just stumbling along the best they can. They think that if this is what I can expect from Jesus, I don't want it. They see people who love Jesus on Sundays and treat their customers and employers and co-workers like the devil the rest of the week.

2. *They don't like the giver.* The giver here is God. Because some people are angry or

disappointed with God for any number of reasons, they don't like His gift. Maybe He didn't answer a prayer the way a person wanted. Maybe they look around and see all the evil and war in the world and think God is incapable of doing anything about it, so they don't want any part of a weak God. Or they think He's unfair as they see the corrupt person flourishing and the good people suffering. Folks, let me tell you that in spite of what it looks like through our human eyes and emotions, God is all-loving and all-powerful, and His plan and purpose will ultimately prevail. Jesus – the gift is part of that plan and purpose.

3. *They prejudge the gift.* They have all sorts of ideas of what it means to be a Christian and follow Jesus. They think it means giving up all their fun, or having to live by a ton of rules and regulations that take away their freedoms. Or they think that no reasonable person could believe the Bible, so they reject the possibility that it could actually be true, even though the evidence is overwhelming for the reasonable person who actually looks at it. Or they see how Jesus is portrayed in whatever setting - as a weakling or as a leader of weak-minded people who ended up getting killed for His troubles.

There are lots of reasons people reject the gift of Jesus and what He came to bring. So here's the bottom-line: The gift is too valuable to pass up. Get past the other stuff and look at Jesus for real and you'll see that He's worth it. There are basically two types of people: Those who have received the gift and those who haven't. It's pretty much that simple. Allow me to invite you to receive the gift today.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Short Business Meeting following service

Christmas Tea with the Lanes

.....2-4 pm

No Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 14

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 15

O Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Isaac Waters, Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 21

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 22

W Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

December 11—Christmas Tea with the Lanes, 2-4 pm

December 14 — Prayer Warriors

December 18 — Collect for Food Pantry

December 25 — Christmas

— No Diversicare

January 1, 2017 — Happy New Year !

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW! Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will not meet tonight for a time of study. Hope to see you next week.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet Wednesday at 6:30 pm. We are looking at the season of Advent with Max Lucado's *God Came Near— Insights on the Season of Advent*. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Love Gift for Matt and Karissa Long

Matt and Karissa Long are leaving January 18, 2017 for Papua, New Guinea. Our church family has decided to give them a Christmas love offering. Please pray about how the Lord would have you give.

2016 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®

Our church-wide goal is \$1,500.00. Please pray about what you should give. So far we have received \$370.00.

Christmas Card Boxes Are in the Hallway

Annually, we encourage you to exchange Christmas cards among your church family. Place your cards in the boxes in the hallway and contribute the postage you save to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

CHRISTMAS TEA WITH THE LANES

Today, December 11

2—4 pm

You are invited to enjoy an afternoon of Christmas Fellowship at the parsonage. Plan to come and relax for a moment during the busy holiday season. We're looking forward to seeing you!

Christmas Morning Schedule

We will not have Sunday School on Christmas Morning, Sunday, December 25. Worship will be at the usual time, 10:30 am.

Food Pantry Collection

December 18 is our collection day for Patee Park Food Pantry. You may place your grocery items in the basket in the hallway. You can also donate monetarily if you would rather. Thank you for your willingness to give.

For the Record

Attendance: December 4, 2016

Sunday School.....	46
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	47
Contacts Made.....	6
Morning Worship.....	63
Missions Study.....	17
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Sunday Night	N/A
Wednesday Night	13

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ...	\$ 5,497.00
Lottie Moon...	\$ 370.00
Love Offering for Longs	\$ 280.00
Love Offering for The Ascension Quartet...	\$ 555.88

Offering Received by Mail:

December Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

December Van Driver:

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

December Member Birthdays:

03 ...	Brent Fortune
08 ...	Madeline Swink
09 ...	Allison Adkinson
11 ...	George Ferbert

15 ... George Burgess
16 ... Addison Leichti
16 ... Doris Richardson
19 ... Jessica Kirkpatrick
20 ... Leona Reynolds
20 ... Brenda Burgess
23 ... Joseph Coats

December Anniversaries

Bill and Alva Lou Schottel
December 22, 1962

Prayer Requests ...

Dorothy Post—surgery recovery
Penny Sherlock—surgery recovery
Tim Izer during the holidays
Gary & Peggy Fewins and Byron
George Ferbert and Family—strength
Nellie Reynolds—recovery at home
Troy Griswold—cancer
David Beavers—recovery
Larry Danner—cancer treatment
Cynthia Burdick—cancer treatment
Jim Winans at home
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Betty Campbell—healing
Pat Puckett—eyes, healing
Marcia and Don Hart—future plans
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
 Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris
 Richardson's sisters
Madeline Swink
Audrey Dugan Bob Barquist
Kathryn Beavers Ann Riddle
Louanne Laurence Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Sue Higgins Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
