

## Morning Worship

February 18, 2018

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano — Marcia Hart

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

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Hymn # 546	<i>Love Lifted Me</i>	Don/People
Responsive Reading #75	<b>God the Son</b>	Allan/People
Hymn # 579	<i>Shine, Jesus, Shine</i>	Don/People
Hymn # 600	<i>More About Jesus</i>	Don/People
Chorus # 146	<i>O How He Loves You and Me</i>	Don/People
Offering Prayer		Fred Kerns
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Marcia Hart
Children's Worship		(Children are dismissed)
Scripture Reading	1 Peter 3:13-4:6	Allan/People
Message	"Surviving Suffering"	Allan Lane
Hymn # 312	<i>Softly and Tenderly</i>	Don/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus # 23	<i>God Is So Good</i>	Don/People

## Surviving Suffering

1 Peter 3:13-4:6

A Romanian pastor was captured and tortured in order to get him to tell where other Christians were meeting so they could be arrested as well. But they could not get the pastor to break and disclose the location of the other Christians. So, the authorities went and found the pastor's 14-year-old son and brought him to the prison.

Then, in front of the pastor, they beat and tortured his son. After taking as much as he could, the pastor called out to his son and said, "I love you my son. I must tell them what they want to know." But, the son called back, "No, father. They may kill me. But do not do me the disgrace of giving me a traitor for a father."

Many in our world live their days in fear. Peter wrote to the Christians in Rome to strengthen their faith and prepare them to be witnesses for Jesus.

How should believers respond to suffering? Whatever the source of pain, God gives His people direction to overcome their difficulties.

### 1. Be Resolute in Spite of Suffering. (3:13-14)

Peter reminds his readers that we are sanctified - set apart. How do we show we are set apart?

- a. Be committed to doing good.
- b. Be fearless in the face of suffering.

### 2. Be Ready in the Midst of Suffering. (3:15)

- a. Show honor to Christ.
- b. Share why you have hope.

Suppose one day, someone asked you, "How do I become a Christian?" Would you be able to tell them? You can't share something you don't possess. Remember, the world is bound for Hell. We are surrounded by people who do not believe in the Bible, Christ, or the Church. Jesus loved the lost and we should love them enough to tell them about Jesus. Our hope is in Jesus. You know the song - *My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' Name.*

### **3. Be Respectful While Dealing with Suffering. (3:16)**

Jesus reminded us in John 16:33 that He has overcome the world.

- a. **Persist** with a clear conscience.
- b. **Prevail** against those who attack you.

We're not called to cower in fear. During the Middle Ages many Christians retreated to monasteries and lived apart from the world. We are to be in the world, but not part of it. The world hates us, just as Jesus said in John 15:18-19.

### **4. Be Right Although it Means Suffering. (3:17-22)**

- a. Do good, not evil .
- b. Do God's will .
- c. Follow Christ's example .

### **5. Be Resolved Even When Suffering. (4:1-6)**

- a. Put away evil.
- b. Prepare for judgment .

Black Bart was a thief whose very name struck fear as he terrorized the Wells Fargo stage line. From San Francisco to New York, his name became synonymous with the danger of the frontier. Between 1875 and 1883 he robbed 29 different stagecoach crews. But, he did it all without firing a shot. Because a hood hid his face, no victim ever saw his face. He never took a hostage and was never trailed by a sheriff. Later, in prison he said that he didn't need to fire a shot; all he had to do was to use fear to paralyze his victims. "Fear, the face of the unknown, was my weapon of choice, my weapon of intimidation."

We live in a changing world marked by terrorism, wars, and the constant threat of nuclear, biological or chemical extinction. But praise God, whatever fearful situation we may face, remember, we are not alone. Remember what Paul said in Romans 8:38-39.

### **Conclusion:**

Theologian John Stott said, "Peter would prepare the church, not simply to endure persecution, but to find in persecution an opportunity for witness."

#### **WHAT GOD HATH PROMISED**

*God hath not promised skies always blue,  
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through,  
God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.*

#### **Author: Annie Johnson Flint**

*But God hath promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,*

*Unfailing sympathy, undying love.*

*God hath not promised we shall not know  
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;  
He hath not told us we shall not bear  
Many a burden, many a care*

*God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,  
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;  
Never a mountain rocky and steep,  
Never a river turbid and deep.*

## ***Oh, What God Hath Promised! We've Got the Gold***

What do The Olympics, Valentine's Day, and Religion have in common? All three can cause undue pressure.

In the Olympics, every participant is going for the gold. No matter whether you are the favorite to win it all or not, your desire is to do your best, to respectfully represent your nation, and perhaps the pressure will get to someone else and it might just be your opportunity to shine.

Then on Valentine's Day, everyone is going for gold, too. This past Wednesday millions were lined up and sweating buckets at the card and flower shops and other retail stores because they had not yet bought the perfect card or gift. One single lady wrote: "There's one thing worse than not having a boyfriend on Valentine's Day – actually having one." Her opinion is that single women without a romantic interest on this day of love are only miserable for one flowerless day, a misery usually conquered by large quantities of after-holiday half-price Valentine's Day candy. But when you do have someone special in your life, you have a sleep-depriving, nail-biting decision with relationship-making or breaking ramifications: what to give this semi-significant other."

I heard a guy on a talk show this week tell how he was solving the Valentine's Day pressure by combining it with the Olympics. Four years ago during the Olympics, he got hooked watching Curling. So he researched it and joined a Curling Club near his home in Kansas City. Since then he goes to a league much like a bowling league. His skill is getting better, but said he is having lots of fun. Oh, and he met his girlfriend there. I wasn't surprised when he said 'she's Russian.'

In religion there are billions who go to all sorts of religious services, in temples, mosques, or churches who feel the pressure of going for the gold in their religious practices. There is pressure to measure up to a standard of goodness, piety, and saintliness. How can you be sure if you are ever good enough? The cycle of pressure continues.

Henri Nouwen, was a trained psychologist and theologian. He taught at Notre Dame, Yale, and Harvard. He averaged writing more than a book a year. He traveled widely as a sought after conference speaker. It was said he had a resume to die for. That was his biggest problem. He felt suffocated, pressured by his success, by his "going for the gold."

So he decided to change. He went to South America as a missionary for 6 months after which he came back to United States and back to hectic schedule speaking. Again feeling suffocated, he got involved with the L'Arche community (France), a home for seriously disabled. It was here that he felt nourished. He spent his last years in

Toronto in similar setting at a home called "Daybreak." In the process, the writer learned how God must feel to love us. We are much like the handicapped he cared for - spiritually uncoordinated, unresponsive, and our prayers may seem to God like incomprehensible grunts and groans.

Listen! If you are feeling suffocated, tired of trying so hard and still ending up feeling empty and exhausted... take heart. God invites us to relax in His presence. Considering how deep is the love of God. God gives us a no pressure invitation to go for the gold with Him. We don't need to line up our achievements with Him. We don't need to give gifts/offerings to Him wondering if this is a make or break lifetime decision with what we offer. We don't need to find the religious ritual to have God on our side as if He would judge our love/worship. We cannot bribe Him with all our efforts at good deeds.

In Ephesians 3:14-21 Paul reminded his readers that Jesus was the one who went through the pressure-cooker for us. He was the One who made it right for us to enter God's presence and be presented with all of heaven's riches. It's free. There's no more pressure to measure up to anything, whether we are loved. All we need to do is merely just trust His word on this, from the start to the finish, God went for the gold for us. He took a beating and even more. He took on death on the cross and won. So the pressure is off. He knew we could never rise up on our own. We're too dead in our sin to respond. So He made us alive in Christ. It's the same way Christ rose up with authority over death.

We've already got the gold. His name is Jesus. Do you know Him personally? Will you trust Him for your future? Place your life in His hands and He will guide you.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

## Opportunities For Service

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

#### **Sunday, February 18, 2018**

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Ken Nice, ? ? ? ? Don Sharp, Fred Kerns

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

#### **January Bible Study.....**

Immediately following the morning service.

#### **Wednesday, February 21**

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

#### **Thursday—Saturday, February 22-25**

##### **2018 Great Commission Conference**

#### **Sunday, February 25, 2018**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Joseph Coats, Gary Yarbrough, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Ken Nice  
Diversicare.....2:30 pm

No Evening Services

**Monday, February 26**

SS Workers Mtg ..... 6:30 pm

**Wednesday, February 28**

Prayer / Bible Study ....6:30 pm  
Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

**Up-Coming Events.....**

**February 18 — Collection for the Longs**

— January Bible Study at Noon

**February 22 — Food Pantry**

**February 22-25 — Great Commission Conference**

Bro. Allan and Ellen will be attending

**February 25 — Diversicare 2:30 pm**

**February 26 — Sunday School Workers Meeting, 6:30 pm**

**March 4 — January Bible Study at Noon**

**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 on Sunday evenings until the weather gets better. Attend January Bible Study today, February 18th!

**Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm and enjoy a time of fellowship and Bible Study.

**January Bible Study**

Our next January Bible Study will be today, February 18th. Bro. Jack Conard will be leading Session 3 and Bro. Allan Session 4. We will finish up on March 4th with Don Beavers leading Session 5 and Bro. Allan Session 6.

Please plan to join us!

**2018 GREAT COMMISSION CONFERENCE**

The host for this year's conference is First Baptist Church, Harvester. This event, February 22-25 and sponsored by the Missouri Baptist Convention, features nationally recognized speakers and offers break-out sessions, fellowship meals, and other networking opportunities. The theme of this year's conference is "Reconcile," based on 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. Bro. Allan and Ellen plan to attend. If you have an interest, please let them know. There is no charge for admission; costs are covered through

**your generous gifts through the Cooperative Program.**

**Daylight Saving Time!  
March 11**

Please remember to spring forward one hour the night of March 10.

**Diversicare  
Nursing Home**

**Sunday, February 25 at 2:30 pm**

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

***For the Record-***

**Attendance: February 11, 2018**

Sunday School.....	23
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	25
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	36
Children's Worship.....	6
Wednesday Night .....	11

**Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget .....	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 2,582.00
Long Family-January....	\$ 100.00

**Offering Received by Mail:**

**February Counting Team:**

Larry McKahan and Jordan Lane

**February Van Driver:**

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747 before 8 am if you need a ride.

**February Member Birthdays:**

05...Matthew Mayse

06...Eileen Smith

22...Joey Maddox

**February Anniversaries**

George and Brenda Burgess

February 25, 1995

***Prayer Requests ...***

Donna Dunn—recovery and treatment

Bill Dunn - flu

Joyce Cook – liver illness

Jack and Flo Conard

Katie McIntosh—surgery recovery  
(Dillon Burgess's girlfriend)  
LoLeta Middleton  
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health  
Rick and Mary Bruntmeyer  
Brigida Winans—scooter free!  
Arlette Duty—carpal tunnel  
Gina Harr—recovery and strength  
Don Beavers—heart and health  
Curtis Conard—recovery  
Emily Jones & baby Liam  
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery  
Karissa and Matt Long and family  
The Waters Family—guidance  
Stephanie & Jason Terpack  
Shawna Hughes—home isolation  
Larry Danner—cancer  
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister  
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim  
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son  
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter  
LoLeta Middleton—strength  
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law  
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister  
Rev. A. B. Brown      Betty Campbell  
George Ferbert      Kevin Duty  
Ellen Blanton      Lois Ulmer  
Jim Winans      Nellie Reynolds  
Madeline Swink      Ann Riddle  
Kathryn Beavers      Keon McKahan  
Jozy Winans      Kenny Duty  
Pat Means      Buddy Means  
Bill & Juanita      Debbie Sands  
Pat Puckett      Judy Anderson  
Brenda Burgess      Roscoe Lane  
Carolyn Houts      Tim Izer  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service Women and Men  
Terrorism in our world

**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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