

## Morning Worship

March 11, 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)

Scripture Reading Romans 10:9-13 Don/People

Hymn # 581 *We Have Heard the Joyful Sound* Don/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship

Chorus *There Is a Savior* Don/People

Missions Moment *Kempton Turner—East St. Louis*

Hymn # 566 *Tell the Good News* Don/People

Hymn # 567 *Share His Love* Don/People

Offering Prayer Fred Kerns

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music Marcia Hart

Solo Don Beavers

Children's Worship (Children are dismissed)

Scripture Reading Mark 14:17-50 Allan/People

Message "Reflections from the Garden" Allan Lane

Hymn # 285 *Wherever He Leads I'll Go* Don/People

Prayer Concerns Allan/People

Chorus *Awesome God* Don/People

## Reflections from the Garden

Mark 14:17-50

March 11, 2018 am

*We are living in a very dark time in history. Christ and His followers are under attack from the enemy like never before. Unfortunately, many today have followed the example of Peter, James and John in the Garden. At such an important time in Christian history, the church has gone to sleep. As we examine these verses we reflect on the garden experience of Jesus and His Disciples. There are four thoughts for us to consider.*

### **1. We Live in a Day of Severe Circumstances . (verses 27-28)**

Jesus reveals to His followers that things are about to get difficult. He addresses the fact that they will be scattered. These men had witnessed and experienced some great times while following Jesus. They had been present in the beginning when great

multitudes came to Jesus for healing. These men experienced some great things while following Jesus:

- They saw people healed from their diseases
- They saw Him give sight to the blind
- They saw Him give hearing to the deaf
- They saw Him give the dumb the ability to speak.
- They saw Him cleanse the lepers.
- They saw Him cast out demons
- They saw Him raise people from the dead.
- They were the ones who picked up the fragments after Jesus fed the 5000

They had been present on that first "Palm Sunday" when Jesus made His "Triumphal entry into Jerusalem." They witnessed the people singing "Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." They were also privileged to be alone with Jesus. When the crowds went away they were able to speak to Him one on one. They laughed with Him, They cried with Him. Truly, these men experienced some great times in their walk with Christ.

They experienced some difficult times as well. They faced several physical storms and were fearful. They did experience some persecution. They were present as Jesus was constantly challenged and rejected by the Pharisees and Sadducees. Now Jesus tells them that there is trouble coming like they have never seen and that "they would be scattered" and abandon Him. As Christians we have those "Mountain Top" experiences and we spend some time "in the valley." It has often been said that "if you want to see who someone really is, watch their reaction when troubles come." There are many who profess to be followers of Christ and everything is good .... Until troubles come.

The "Church"... "the body of Christ" has experienced some good times and some bad times as well.

- There have been times of affluence and prosperity.
- There have been times of lack and poverty.
- There have been times of intense persecution.
- There have been times of great revival.
- There have been times of great fear and anxiety.
- There have been times of great boldness and activity.

Today, we live in a day where things are bad and seemingly getting worse. Our society is growing increasingly secular. There are constant attacks on the church. Christians are being persecuted all over the world. Our own government is becoming (or has become) anti-God. Our Savior is under attack and it seems that the church is fast asleep while the Savior suffers.

Adrian Rogers, dear saint and servant that he was, said - The church is asleep, snuggled up in her pews with the covers pulled up over her head, and the sanctuary is dark. God's alarm clock is going off. Take heed - this is no time to push the snooze button.

Jesus doesn't need any more sleeping saints; He is looking for devoted servants. We live in a day of severe circumstances, and as a result:

## **2. There is a Need for Steadfast Devotion . (verses 29-31)**

When it comes to "steadfast devotion" there is more involved than just proclaiming that devotion. However, devotion involves more than words.

Peter boldly professes that even if everyone else is "offended" he would not be. Jesus then reveals that Peter would not only be "offended" but that he would "deny Him three times before the rooster crowed." Do you see what's happening here?

Basically Peter calls Jesus a liar. He says he would die before he abandoned Jesus. The rest of the disciples echoed what Peter said. I honestly believe that each of the men really meant what they said when they said it. But when the time came they failed.

Many people are quick to profess their devotion to Christ. They SAY they are willing to deny themselves. They SAY they will forsake all. They SAY they will follow Christ.

Many say that they would never abandon Christ or His cause and then they face circumstances that they had never imagined and before long they are gone. Even though Peter said that "He would never leave Christ" .... Jesus knew better. The same is true for the remainder of the disciples....Look to the events of the Crucifixion and see who was present and who was absent. John was there, but the rest were hiding in fear. Some of you have professed devotion to Christ and then somewhere along the way you left Him. It is easy to make a profession in the atmosphere of a church. It often can be difficult to follow through when troubles come. Understand this; there are those who were personally chosen by Jesus. These were devoted followers who had left everything to follow Him. Through this text we see that no one is exempt from failure in the Christian life.

While that fact may be discouraging, Jesus gives us some encouragement in verse 28. He said "After I am risen I will go before you into Galilee." Aren't you glad that Jesus doesn't throw us away when we fail? In the wicked age in which we live we must have steadfast devotion. Our Savior is under attack and we must be devoted to His cause. Satan is attacking Christ and His people in every way he can. Jesus doesn't need half-hearted followers who talk a good talk. He is seeking those who will be "steadfast immovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord." We when have that "Steadfast Devotion" we will be obedient to Christ's commands and instructions in our life.

### **3. Jesus Has Given Specific Instructions . (verses 32-34)**

Jesus took them to Gethsemane. He left some behind and took Peter, James and John a little further. He gave them simple specific instructions:

- "Sit Here"
- "Tarry ye here"
- "Watch and Pray"

Throughout life there are many things that we may be called to do. Some of those things may be very demanding. It is because the Christian faith is an active faith. But there are times when we are commanded to do some things that are less demanding. Many times we read where Jesus took some time to get into a quiet place and pray. Sometimes He would have us to step away from the struggles and get alone with God. These times may be less active than others, but even in these times we must be sober and on guard. During those "down times" ...those times when we are not on the frontlines, we are still on the battlefield. And we must always listen to the direction from the Master.

When He says sit, watch and pray.... That is exactly what we must do. We are not to go ahead and seek the next battle, we are to sit, watch, and pray. Jesus has given us universal instructions such as "go forth and making disciples." But He also gives specific instructions for us to follow as individuals. Are we willing to do just that?

### **4. We Must Address Our Shameful Apathy . (verses 35-42)**

Apathy is defined as lack of emotion, lack of interest; Indifference. Here we see our Savior in deep sorrow and great anguish. "He goes a little farther and falls to the ground and cries out to His Father." He knows what is soon to take place. He will

soon become the sacrifice for the sins of the world. And while their beloved Master is in anguish and agony, the Disciples have fallen asleep. They not only fell asleep the first time, but two more times even after being confronted by Jesus. As the disciples slept Jesus prayed. They were unaware that something much more important was going on not too far away from them.

Judas had agreed to betray Christ with a kiss for the sum of 30 pieces of silver. We know that the ultimate victory was won at Calvary. We know who wins the war. But in the Garden there was a battle raging. There is still a battle raging today. Satan has been defeated and it is his desire to destroy all that he can before he meets his demise. He is waging a vicious war as we speak. While the attacks come on Christ and the church, we are fast asleep. It is time that we address our shameful apathy.

### **Conclusion:**

We all would agree that Christ and His Church are under attack today. There is an increasing hostility and intolerance toward Christian beliefs and values. We have all seen the attacks on:

- The 10 Commandments in public places
- Prayer in schools
- "Under God" in the pledge of allegiance
- "In God we trust" on our money

Recently Catholic Charities in Illinois, rather than place children with same-sex couples (as the state now requires), they shut down their adoption services. A Christian counselor was recently penalized for refusing to advise gay couples. Despite religious reservations, a court clerk in New York was told to issue same-sex marriage licenses. A wedding photographer was sued for refusing to take photos of same-sex wedding. A cake maker has gone out of business after being sued for not making a cake for a gay wedding. Christian missionaries were arrested by Dearborn, Michigan for discussing Christianity on a public sidewalk outside the annual Arab festival there. Jesus Christ is constantly mocked and blasphemed on TV, Radio and internet. Sadly, we could share similar stories for the rest of the day.

Just like Jesus told these men to "sit, watch and pray," He has given us some specific instructions to follow. There are many things that we are called to do as Christians. But like Peter James and John we do not want to be caught sleeping while The Savior suffers." Let us address our apathy, wake up and do what we can, while we can. For the lost man as well as the saved we must grasp the fact that time is short and Jesus is coming. To the unbeliever we must ask, will you wait until it is too late to surrender to Jesus? To the believer I ask, will you wait until it is too late to serve Jesus?

## ***Wake Up Before It's Too Late!***

### **Joy Overflowing**

Would you say you are just absolutely overflowing with joy right now? Let's be honest with each other. When was the last time where you could truthfully say, "I'm so overflowing with joy I can hardly contain myself?"

Joy, according to Webster's Dictionary is "intense happiness or great delight." Happiness or delight about what? People display joy (intense happiness or great delight) over all sorts of things – a new house, a new car, a new baby, a special moment. Someone said "Joy is not gushy; joy is not jolliness. Joy is just perfect acquiescence in God's will because the soul delights itself in God Himself." Well, that's deep, and wouldn't it be great if we had that kind of

joy in our lives all the time? Most of us, however, are hopeful just to run at – let's say 20% joy. Do you think you might have room for a little more joy in your life? We all realize we don't have as much of it as we'd like. In fact, with winter winding down, we could all use a little joy and sunshine. Maybe the first thing we need to examine is some of the places where we believe we can find joy, the places where we think our joy should be coming from.

Some people hope to find joy in their career. And indeed, there must be some famous examples of people who actually loved their careers and can't wait to go off to work. Yea, I can't think of any either. For those of us who don't necessarily find 100% joy in our careers, we might hope to find joy in our vacations. "Man, if I could just get away from this place for a few weeks, then all will be right with the world. If I could only hunt, or fish, or lie on the beach and read several good books, or travel Europe, or whatever, I'll be myself again." We've probably all felt that way at different times in our lives. Sometimes, though, vacations aren't all they're cracked up to be. Perhaps you know of those who make great vacation plans, but they always seem to come home early. Why is that? It's because the vacation is more stressful and troubling than normal life! One mother, while on vacation, thought it would be a good idea to place her two teenage sons – who had not been getting along – on a small boat and send them out into the Pacific Ocean for a three hour tour. Perhaps she was hoping they would land on Gilligan's Island so she could have a real vacation from two troublesome teens! Vacations do not promise a sense of abundant and overflowing joy. Especially since they soon come to an end, and we are left paying the VISA bill for months to come.

Most people hope to find joy in their family. Relationships with parents, spouse, children certainly produce seasons when joy abounds. And we should find joy in our family. But there are other times when family is less of a joy. When there is illness, when aging parents need to be cared for, when death occurs, or someone squabbles with someone else and threatens to disown them, then family is no longer a joy. It becomes work, a burden and a duty. There are few that have a charmed life in terms of their family. We all have someone in our family that we have reason to be concerned about. We cannot always find joy in our family.

Let's talk about friends. Many people hope to find joy in their friends. Now, Friends are a good thing. Friends that make us feel joyful are a wonderful gift. Sometimes, when family gives us reasons to be sad, or concerned, or even angry, friends can come in and restore our perspective. Throughout life we all have the opportunity to forge life-long friendships. And that's great. That's a joy.

Unfortunately, it's a joy many people may never experience. Since life in our society is changing, few people have stability any more. The average person will change jobs seven times of the course of a career, often relocating. And friendships are lost. And even if we don't relocate, friendships can still be lost. Sometimes, our friends are angry with us or we with them. Or they are too busy to notice that we need a friend right now. It is hard to find sustained joy – the kind that makes us vibrant and overflowing – from friends.

Hobbies can be another source of joy. Yet while hobbies are a very good thing for peace of mind, for relaxation, and for being productive in your spare time, my sense is that hobbies don't lead to lasting and exuberant joy. There are times when our ability to engage in our hobbies, due to time constraints, or physical limitations, seems to slip away from us.

Another place many people seek joy is entertainment. Just drive by any of our movie theaters any evening of the week. With multiple screens parking lots are full. In our homes we gather front of the latest big screen, or whatever we stare into these days to get our daily fix, and we'll sit there for hours. In the good old USA, children watch an average of six hours of television per day. Some people have the TV or radio on constantly – even when they're sleeping. They can never get enough. Is this is source of joy? Does watching the things we watch on TV make us feel joyful? Entertainment is not a source of lasting joy. In fact, most of what we consider entertainment today is probably not good for you. Entertainment just masks the signs of our inward loneliness and restlessness.

The world seems to tell us, and pretty often this comes through TV, or radio, or newspapers or magazines, or billboards – that we need more stuff – that our stuff – our possessions – is the secret to joy. We very easily played into the hands of these gifted marketers. They cry out "We've got stuff for joy. Get your stuff here!" We are fed the enticement of automobiles with

that new car smell, a new home, with central vacuum and all the amenities. There's sparkling gold and diamond jewelry. Or the latest kitchen appliance in your choice of chrome, black, white, almond, red, cobalt blue, or forest green. You get this stuff home, and then you have to figure out how to pay for it all. Then your stuff starts to get old. It needs dusting or repairing. Too soon it's not as impressive – as joyful – as it once seemed. Stuff doesn't lead to lasting joy.

Isaiah had a radical vision of what it would be like to discover joy because it was joy found in the desert (Isaiah 35:1-10). The desert, usually a place of dryness, of emptiness, and of death, would suddenly come to life with joy. In his vision, he foresaw the coming of one who would offer us a new way of living, one who would bring us overflowing joy, one who would offer us salvation, hope, peace, and yes, joy. This passage reminds us of what it's like to have Christ come into your life. It's like joy in the desert. Joy comes by welcoming the Christ child into your life, into your heart, and following in his new way of living, that gives true joy, joy overflowing, like streams bubbling up in the desert.

Do you have joy in your heart, and in your life? Your spirit is whispering the answer to you even now. Perhaps you need to open a new door; start a new journey, a journey of joy on the Way of Holiness. Invite the King of Kings and the Prince of Peace to be in residence in your life. Do it today.

God Bless You!

*Bro. Allan*

## **Opportunities For Service**

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

#### **Sunday, March 11, 2018**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

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

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Evening Services.....6:30 pm

#### **Wednesday, March 14**

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

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

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

#### **Sunday, March 18, 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: Larry McKahan

Luncheon and Business Meeting

Immediately following the service

No Evening Services....6:30 pm

## **Wednesday, March 21**

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

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

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

**March 14 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am**

**March 17 — St. Patrick's Day**

**March 18 — Business Meeting and carry in dinner at Noon**  
**— Collect for Longs**

**March 22 — Food Pantry Day**

**March 25 — Palm Sunday**

**March 26 — Workers Meeting**

**March 29 — Maundy Thursday**

**March 30 — Good Friday**

**April 1 — Easter Sunday**

**Sunrise Breakfast and Devotion**

## **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 resume Sunday Nights tonight, March 11. Come join us at 6:30 pm for a surprise theme and gathering.

## **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.

## **Business Meeting and Carry-In Dinner**

We will have our regular business meeting and carry in meal immediately following the morning worship service next Sunday, March 18.

## ***Prayer Warriors***

Wednesday, March 14  
at 10:00 am

## *Thank You*

*Thank you for your recent donations to our food pantry delivered to us by Pam. We are blessed to have such a special person help us as we try to help those who visit our food pantry.*

*God Bless You*

*Maggie Wall*

*Patee Park Baptist Church Food Pantry*

## **EASTER**

Sunday, April 1, is Easter. Be watching for our Easter morning schedule.

### *For the Record*

#### **Attendance: March 4, 2018**

Sunday School.....	23
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	23
Contacts Made.....	6
Morning Worship.....	43
Children's Worship.....	6
Wednesday Night .....	6

#### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget .....	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 2,215.17
Annie Armstrong.....	\$ 180.00
Long Family-February...\$	165.00

#### **Offering Received by Mail:**



### **March Counting Team:**

Bill Schottel and Mike Green

### **March Van Driver:**

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

**before 8 am** if you need a ride.

### **March Member Birthdays:**

01...Ken Nice

05...Sharon Yarbrough

13...Tim Ford

16... Don Sharp

16... Aleana Lane

20... Betty Campbell

27... Jim Winans

### **March Anniversaries**

Fred and Linda Kerns

March 14, 1969

### ***Prayer Requests ...***

Larry McKahan—upcoming surgery

Donna Dunn—recovery and treatment

Jack and Flo Conard

Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health

Arlette Duty—strength

Gina Harr—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 people

**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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