

## Morning Worship

February 3, 2019

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Don Beavers      Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

**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

## Scripture Reading - Philippians 1:26-27      Don/People

Hymn # 406      *The Solid Rock*      Don/People

Hymn # 405      *Have Faith in God*      Don/People

Hymn # 412 *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place* Don/People

Chorus                    *Great and Mighty*                    Don/People

Offering Prayer Bill Schottel

## Tithes and Offerings      People

Offering Music Alya Lou Schottel

Children's Worship (Children are dismissed)

## Special Music

## Message

Message Allan Lane

Hymn # 482                    *All to Thee*                    Doh/People

## Closing Chorus      *The Solid Rock*      Don/People

# **Smyrna: Giving Your All for Jesus**

## Revelation 2:8-11

Persecution and suffering for our faith is to be expected. Christians must both anticipate and prepare to remain faithful when trials occur. Because of our faithful Lord, we will receive a reward for our faith.

If you know something painful is about to happen, the natural reaction is to flee, flinch, or prepare to fight. As Christians, we are to expect the world to hate us and persecute on behalf of our Lord. We can prepare for it and know that Jesus has a reward for those who are faithful during tribulation.

The city of Smyrna was called "The Crown City" because it was surrounded by hills that resembled a crown. It was also called "The Flower of Asia." When the city chose a motto to be imprinted on their coinage, they chose the phrase "First in Asia in Size and Beauty." In this beautiful, wealthy pagan city, there existed a struggling Christian community. The church in Smyrna was undergoing intense and withering persecution. The Lord Jesus comes to them with a word of comfort for their dark days. He tells them that even though they appear to be so weak and so poor, they are, in fact, rich beyond imagination.

One example of their suffering comes to us from history, just a few years after they received this letter. In 155 AD, the Bishop of the church of Smyrna, a man named Polycarp, who was a disciple of John the Beloved, was martyred for Jesus. This man was arrested at the request of an angry mob that cried, "Away with the Atheists; let Polycarp be sought out!" The old preacher, 86 at the time, was given the opportunity to renounce Jesus.

The magistrate, who did not want to see the old man die, said, "What harm is there in saying, Lord Caesar?" But, Polycarp refused. When they entered the stadium, where the executions took place, they tried again saying, "Swear by the fortune of Caesar; repent, and say, Away with the Atheists."

Polycarp fixed his gaze on the crowd, waved his arms at them and said, "Away with the atheists!" The magistrate again attempted to get Polycarp to renounce his faith and said, "Swear, and I will set thee at liberty, reproach Christ."

To that, the old man cried, "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury: how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?"

After a few more attempts to get the old preacher to renounce Jesus, they led him away to the stake to burn him alive. They were about to nail him to the post and Polycarp said, "Leave me as I am; for He that giveth me strength to endure the fire, will also enable me, without your securing me by nails, to remain without moving in the pile."

So, they left him loosely bound and they lit the fire. As the flames rose around him, he was heard to pray and rejoice in Jesus. He died for his faith and in doing so he left an indelible imprint on the fabric of time.

## **1. Jesus was Dead and is Alive .**

This refuted Emperor worship that was very prevalent in many of the cities in the Roman Empire. Ephesus and Smyrna were both considered "free" cities, which meant they were not under Roman domination and protection. In other words, Roman soldiers were not stationed on every street corner. As a trade-off, "free" cities promoted openly worshipping the emperor.

But the church was worshipping one greater than the emperor. The eternal nature of Jesus means He has authority over us. The resurrection of Jesus means He has the power to protect us from or assist us through persecution.

## **2. You Were Poor and Now You Thrive .**

Smyrna, as well as other churches in that era, were accused of:

1. Cannibalism. Christians kept communion and part of that observance was eating the bread and drinking from the cup. These represented the broken body and the shed blood of the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:24-26).

The Bible reminds us that the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18). The Words of God almighty falls on deaf ears, to them it is a book of fables.

Christianity today is considered to be pagan, because we believe in the blood of Jesus Christ washing our sins away.

2. Christians were accused of being immoral. When the Christians gathered, they would often hold what they called "Agape Feasts." These "love feasts" were nothing but times of fellowship, where believers enjoyed one another's company. The pagans, however, accused the Christians of engaging in orgies.

3. Christians were accused of being atheists because they did not worship the many gods of the pagans and because they used no statues and icons in their own worship. So, any natural disasters other calamities were blamed on the Christians for incurring the wrath of the gods. Today we hear it said it's alright to embrace other religions because God is everywhere.

4. Christians were accused of being political enemies of Rome because they refused to say, "Caesar is Lord!" Every Roman citizen was required to do this every year. To fail to do so brought severe punishment and even death.

#### **a. Your pain is known to God.**

They faced poverty. The word used speaks of being "absolutely destitute." These poor people had nothing of this world's goods because of their relationship with the Lord Jesus. They were denied jobs and promotions because of their testimony.

I read about a man who used to pastor a church in Idaho. When people got saved and joined the evangelical church, they were denied jobs, promotions and even lost their jobs when they got saved, because of the high percentage of Mormons in that state. Christians were considered to be the enemy of the Mormon Church.

With the rapid increase of Islam in America, many project the day is coming when Christians will be persecuted by the Islamic church because to Islam Christians are the enemy of their beliefs.

The believers in Smyrna had nothing in a city that possessed everything. The Lord told them their poverty is really their wealth and their persecution will be rectified.

### **3. The Devil is Harsh but Powerless .**

The Resurrected Christ tells the church fear is haunting them without any power. And He reminds them that the devil is testing them in vain. Imagine how Satan must have mocked these people. As they passed the ornate temples and walked down that golden street, surely he said, "Serving Jesus has cost you everything!" Can you hear him whisper to them, "Look at you! You are nothing and you have nothing. Give up on Jesus. You are starving! Deny Him and prosper!"

Do we not hear Satan whispering to the church today, "Serving Jesus is going to cost you everything, because you're different than rest of the world? Look at you; you are radical about abortion, same sex marriage, nudity, gambling, and everything else that pleases everyone else. You need to be politically correct, learn to widen your horizon, realize that we all have the right to belief what we want, it is our lives and we don't need you to push your agenda on us. You will never get ahead in this world because you are bucking against the majority. Your wrong and we are right. Deny your obsolete beliefs, don't believe everything you read in the Bible, it is a book full of

myths and foolish parables. Be like everyone else and prosper. But God says their faith is winning them a great reward.

#### **4. You are Persecuted but Will Conquer .**

In spite of the persecution, life is assured to those who have faith. The day will come and is already starting when we will be required to worship as the government leaders dictate. Have we not already seen this taking place here in America?

Here are but a few examples which have happen just in the past few years.

1. Children in public schools being prohibited from writing Merry Christmas to the soldiers.
2. Senior citizens being banned from praying over their meals in the Senior Centers.
3. The VA banning the mention of God in military funerals.
4. Numerous attempts to have veterans' memorials torn down if they have any religious symbols, such as a cross.
5. Federal judges who threatened to incarcerate a high school valedictorian unless she removed all references to Jesus from her graduation speech and who decided that prayer before a state House of Representatives couldn't be to Jesus.
6. The government forcing Christian business to support abortion.

In light of Jesus' resurrection, hell can never harm you.

#### **Conclusion**

What can a crushed church do?

1. Stand strong against accusations.

We are not of this world (John 15:19).

2. Be careful about getting to close to this world.

The world is out to trick you to follow their agenda. Remember 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 and Galatians 1:10.

3. When facing tribulation (pressure):

Remember that pressure from the world comes trying to conform you too the world (Romans 12:2). Remember God will give you the strength (1 Corinthians 10:13).

4. When facing poverty:

Remember that God does not measure success like the world measures success.

Remember Matthew 6:20 and Matthew 16:26.

5. Be strong in the Lord.

(James 1:12-15) Things are going to continue to be worst, before the Lord returns. There are going to be tribulations, there is going to be pain and persecution. But be of good cheer Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is in control and we know how the story ends.

#### ***Is Anyone Listening?***

#### **Defining the Church**

Our January Bible Study is taken from Revelation 1-3, the majority of which centers around the instructional letters of the Risen Christ to the Seven Churches. These churches were all given insights into who they were and an admonition from Jesus. Truth is, even today many churches are in the midst of an identity crisis – they neither know who they are, what they are doing, or where they are going. Can you imagine how Jesus might describe churches today? Here are some cartoon examples.

- The Scooby Do Church – the church that seems to always have a mysterious problem that

needs to be solved.

- The Tasmanian Devil Church – the church that is so busy that it spins out-of-control churning up everything in its path.
- The Charlie Brown Church - this is the church with low self-esteem that's always scared it's going to fail. They can't seem to get it right.
- The Peter Pan Church – the church that lives in a fantasy world of Never, Neverland. It refuses to grow up, take responsibility, and face reality.
- The Wylie Coyote Church – the church that is fixated on chasing after the unobtainable. They always seemed to get stuck on a single task.
- The Foghorn Leghorn Church – the self-righteous, smug church where the people think their way is always the right way and the better way.
- The Fred Flintstone Church – the church that is stuck in the stone age and unwilling to change to make way for the future.
- The Smurf Church – the church that refuses to accept outsiders because they are different. They're so closed minded they're almost cultic.
- The Tom and Jerry Church – the fickle church where the people can't decide whether they like each other or not. One moment their friends working together and the next moment they are trying to kill each other.
- The Chicken Little Church – the sky is falling church where people are consumed with the threat of the unknown.

Do any of these churches describe our church? Let me assure you, when Jesus gave His Holy Spirit to start the church, He never planned for it to be like a cartoon. In fact, He had a specific picture in mind of a group of believers sharing their lives to know God together, to encourage one another, and to share Jesus with others.

Someone said todays churches resemble the Love Boat, centered on keeping members happy and entertained. The pastor serves as cruise director. His job is to keep the people happy by responding to the every want and whim while making the trip fun. At sea, the pastor makes sure the desires of the people are met and when they arrive at the next port of call, he makes sure all excursions are enjoyable. And if the staff does not produce such an experience, then the members have every right to rock the boat.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus states that the mission of the church is to make disciples by telling people about the love and mercy of God, by helping people to mature in their faith, and by releasing people to go and share the hope of Jesus to the world. To accomplish this mandate, the church must be fixated on teaching people how to follow Christ and serve His kingdom through genuine love for God, love for each other, and love for people yet to discover Jesus Christ. Church isn't a spectator sport – it requires participation. It's a place where you come to give, not take. If you only come to take, then you'll get what's coming to you, but if you come to give, you'll find you can't out-give God.

God Bless You!  
Bro. Allan ☺

## Opportunities For Service

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

**Sunday, February 3, 2019**

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, ? ? ?

Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

January Bible Study..... Noon

No Evening Worship....6:30 pm

**Monday, February 4**

Food Kitchen .....5:30 pm

**Wednesday, February 6**

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

**Sunday, February 10, 2019**

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice,

Don Sharp, Fred Kerns

Alternate: LeRoy Bush

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

**Wednesday, February 13**

Prayer Warriors ..... 10 am

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

Worship Team.....7:30 pm

**Thursday, February 14**

Valentine's Day

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

**February 3 — January Bible Study at Noon**

**February 4 — Food Kitchen**

**February 11-17 — WMU Focus Week**

**February 13 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am**

**February 14 — Valentine's Day**

**February 17 — Collect for the Long Family**

**— January Bible Study, Second Session**

## **GROW Team**

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

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### **Sunday Night**

We will not have Sunday evening service tonight since we are having January Bible Study today immediately following morning worship. Plan to attend these special Bible study times. It promises to be a great time!

### **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

A few weeks ago we began a study entitled “Unseen, But Certain.” However, the weather hasn’t always cooperated with us. We’ve only seen the first session (on Angels), so there’s plenty of time to take advantage of this study by Dr. Danny Akin on other topics, such as Satan, Demons, Hell, and Heaven. Our prayer time is also important. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church.

### *Please Excuse Our Mess!*

Corey Whorton is at work remodeling the expanded entryway. Please continue to pray for the renovations. To God be the Glory!

### *Thanks So Much!*

*The phrase is simple and the words are few, but behind the is a whole lot of appreciation.*  
Thank You Everyone! There aren’t words to say how I feel. Sometimes Thank You seems so little. God bless all of you.

The Family of Cynthia Burdick

### **Senior Adult Event**

*February 7, 2019*

*10:00 AM*

*Faith United Baptist Church  
8400 SW State Highway V*

*Saint Joseph*

Rev. Gary Dean, Interim Pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church will bring the Inspirational Message and our own LeRoy Bush will share on the

### *History of Comic Strips.*

Everyone is asked to bring one of the following to share for the fellowship meal:  
*vegetable, salad, or dessert.*

All seniors should plan to attend this associational event.

## ***For the Record-***

### **Attendance: January 27, 2019**

Sunday School.....	26
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	26
Contacts Made.....	13
Morning Worship.....	38
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship .....	5
Wednesday Night .....	N/A

### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget .....	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 2,963.89
Long Family –Jan. ...	\$ 65.00

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

### **February Counting Team:**

Larry McKahan and Jordan Lane

### **February Van Driver:**

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

### **February Member Birthdays:**

05...Matthew Mayse  
06...Eileen Smith  
16...Karen Shirley

### **February Anniversaries**

George and Brenda Burgess  
February 25, 1995

## **Prayer Requests ...**

Betty Campbell  
Mike Green—Knee Surgery  
John Wildberger Family  
Cynthia Burdick Family  
Susy Long—Alice Coat's Sister  
Brendan Conner—Swymeller's Grandson  
Jack and Flo Conard  
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery  
Sandy and Stanley Wilson  
Ruth Anne Bush—healing  
Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia  
Linda Huff—cancer treatment  
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings  
Arlette Duty—strength  
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health  
Donna and Bill Dunn—health  
Karissa and Matt Long and family  
Stephanie & Jason Terpack  
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  
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister  
Doris Richardson June Fritchle  
The Waters Family Elmer Mayse  
Jim Winans Kevin Duty  
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle  
Don Beavers Tim Izer  
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan  
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty  
Pat Means Buddy Means  
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands  
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard  
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane  
Carolyn Houts Seth Long  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace

## **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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