

Morning Worship

February 2, 2020

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

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

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Scripture Reading		Romey Keith Davis
Hymn # 140	<i>Down at the Cross</i>	Romey/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Hymn # 132	<i>There is Power in the Blood</i>	Romey/People
Hymn # 149	<i>Blessed Redeemer</i>	Romey/People
Offering Prayer		John Lewis
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Alva Lou Schottel
Hymn # 546	<i>Love Lifted Me</i>	Romey/People
Chorus Book # 66	<i>Learning to Lean</i>	Romey/People
Special Music		
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 308	<i>Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior</i>	Romey/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus Book # 79	<i>Bind Us Together</i>	Romey/People

Jeremiah: Accepting Your Call

Jeremiah 1:1-19

Change is inevitable. Most of the time, it occurs inconspicuously, so discreetly people hardly notice. Sometimes change is rapid and catastrophic. Such was the end of the seventh century and the beginning of the sixth century BC. In less than five decades, the world between the Persian Gulf and the First Cataract of the Nile River transformed irrevocably. The brutal Assyrian Empire dominated the region at the beginning of this period. Fifty years later, Assyria had vanished completely. A new superpower, the Neo-Babylonian Empire, controlled the entire region.

These extraordinary changes dramatically altered the fortunes of Judah. As Assyrian influence weakened, King Josiah led Judah in political and spiritual transformation. He made a robust effort to comply completely with every instruction recorded in the Law of Moses. Josiah died in battle when he and Judah contested Egyptian advances. Thereafter Judah became an Egyptian vassal state. The Babylonian defeat of Egypt transferred dominion over Judah to the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. Within two decades, Babylon annihilated Judah, reducing Jerusalem to an uninhabited pile of rubble. Those Jews who survived the Babylonian slaughter fled to Egypt as refugees or were forcibly exiled to Babylon.

During these turbulent years, God addressed His people through several prophets. The most recognized voice was the maligned prophet Jeremiah. His ministry bridged the entire era, from his call in 627 BC to beyond the destruction of Jerusalem in 587/6 BC. His messages were extremely unpopular. No sermons were more distasteful to the majority of the population than those delivered by Jeremiah. His preaching was so controversial he was banned from the temple. Even his relatives plotted to kill him.

The Book of Jeremiah recounts the ministry of a prophet by the same name. It does not record every detail of his ministry. Nevertheless, the book is the longest prophetic book in the Bible (by number of words in the original language). It describes more details of Jeremiah's life than any other prophetic book describes about its namesake. The book begins with Jeremiah's call experience. God had chosen him to serve as a prophet in the most turbulent period in Judah's history. Understanding his call was critical to fulfilling his prophetic ministry in such difficult times.

The first chapter of Jeremiah focuses on God's call upon his life. Scripture reveals how God prepared Jeremiah for his prophetic ministry in a specific historical time. God has worked in your background to prepare you for your assignment in serving Him. Much of this message came from the preaching suggestions for the 2020 January Bible Study.

1. Understand Your Uniqueness . Verses 1-3

Of the billions of snowflakes, scientists tell us no two are exactly alike. Nor are any two believers identical. Each of us is unique, specially chosen by God for His service.

a. Your assignment .

We Each Have a Unique Assignment (1:1a). God called Jeremiah to be a prophet. God has a task He wants you to do (see Eph. 4:11-13).

b. Your background .

We Each Have a Unique Background (1:1b). Jeremiah's early life prepared him for his assignment. The small, rural town of Anathoth exposed him to valuable lessons of nature (about 5 miles away). Being reared in a priestly family taught him the Law of Moses. Living in the tribal area of Benjamin exposed him to the prophetic teachings of Amos and Hosea. The close proximity of Anathoth to Jerusalem kept him informed of world events.

Your life experiences have prepared you to carry out your assignment.

c. Your domain .

We Each Have a Unique Domain (1:2-3). Jeremiah preached during a crucial era of Judah's history (more next week in our study). God has put you in this time and this place to complete your assigned task.

2. Don't Underestimate Your Potential . Verses 4-8

Jeremiah objected to God's call because he thought he was too young. Our excuses are invalid because God is greater than our weaknesses.

Frequently we are reluctant to do the tasks God calls us to perform. We can take certain steps that will enable us to complete the mission God desires us to do.

a. God's Assurance .

Jeremiah thought he was too young (v. 6).

b. God's Provision .

Success comes from God's provision, not our talent (vv. 7-8).

3. Listen to God Meticulously . Verses 9-10

a. God's Endowment .

God detailed His endowment for Jeremiah's mission. The symbolic gesture of touching the mouth signified God commissioned Jeremiah to be His prophet. God had filled the prophet's mouth with His words. He would enable Jeremiah to speak His message precisely. Implicit in the words coming from the LORD is the capacity of God to perform what He said. In creation God said, "Let there be..." and from nothing came the universe. When Jeremiah delivered God's message, he could be confident it would accomplish God's purposes. Furthermore, once he received God's message, Jeremiah was compelled to speak them. Later, in a state of persecution and depression, the prophet unsuccessfully attempted to remain silent. He described God's message as a fire in his heart (Jer. 20:9). After proclaiming God's message Jeremiah credited God's presence with him as the reason his enemies could not silence him (v. 11).

b. God's Promises .

Listen to God's promises carefully. The Lord had commissioned Jeremiah as His spokesperson to the world. He had promised the new prophet divine power to accomplish the task given to him. God defined that task in generalities, but it was sufficient for the young man to formulate his mission. The four verbs of destruction in verse 10 point to divine judgment.

Today we tend to view judgment in terms of heaven or hell. In Jeremiah's day people most likely thought of temporal judgment—things that happen in this life. Both perspectives are Biblical. Sin has destructive consequences in this life, as well as in eternity. Only faith in Jesus can deliver from that eternal separation. God would destroy Judah because its citizens failed to obey Him. Jeremiah's message was more than a prediction of future calamity; it was a plea for repentance. Pronouncing judgment only partially fulfilled Jeremiah's mission. Two verbs denoting construction follow the four destructive terms. Jeremiah also was to share hope with the condemned nation. The coming violence would not bring the final annihilation of God's people. God would provide them a future. One of the strongest confirmations of this hope came during the final Babylonian siege of Jerusalem. Jeremiah purchased land as a sign of forthcoming restoration (32:1-44). The inclusion of other nations in his commission would have resonated with Jeremiah. The world of his day was highly volatile. Current events foretold of coming chaos. Into this churning maelstrom of international turmoil, God sent Jeremiah to deliver His message.

We as Christians frequently overlook our life experiences in seeking to understand God's will for us. However, this demotes events God orchestrates to mere luck, good

or bad. What about your life? Where has God led you throughout your life? As you may know, I have spent much of my ministry years here in Saint Joseph. I cannot think that it was just happenstance. Looking back, I see my experience has been God's preparation and fulfillment of His calling. His hand has been at work always. How has your past prepared you for whatever God has called you to do? Instead of contemplating your inadequacy, trust God's capacity to achieve His purposes. Whenever God calls an individual, God equips that person for whatever task He calls that one to accomplish.

4. Trust God Fully . Verses 11-19

a. God's Visions .

God reassured Jeremiah with two visions (vv. 11-18).

Then the word of the LORD came to me indicates Jeremiah received additional divine revelation. The text does not state when the revelation occurred. The context suggests it was soon after the preceding conversation with God. On this occasion, the revelation opens with a visual element coupled with a question. Although Biblical scholars frequently label the two visible components in Jeremiah 1:11-16 as visions, whether they were mental images or physical objects is unclear. "What do you see..." implies Jeremiah was staring at something. Both items Jeremiah saw were common in Anathoth. Possibly, as he contemplated God's inquiries, he gazed on nearby objects. When God asked what he saw, the prophet responded he saw "a branch of an almond tree." Almond trees were widespread in the region. The Hebrew text has a wordplay that is lost in most English translations. A paraphrase of verses 11-12 captures some of the Hebrew pun: And I said, "I see an almond stick." Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well because I will stick by My word." God's promise "I watch over my word to accomplish it" anticipated periods of discouragement for Jeremiah because of delay in fulfilling some prophecy.

God asked Jeremiah what he saw a second time. The prophet answered that he was looking at a pot of heated liquid. The pot rested over a fire, undoubtedly supported on stones. The blazing hot flames heated the liquid to a boil. The pot tilted slightly on its props, causing its bubbling contents to spill over the brim and flow in a southerly direction. Once more, God confirmed the accuracy of Jeremiah's perception. Then God predicted judgment would come against Judah from the north. The Hebrew word for disaster (rendered "evil" in some English translations) has various meanings. The overall sense is anything bad that occurs. Good and bad are subjective. Here the context makes the meaning clear. It refers to a period of distress because of the wicked behavior habitually practiced by Judah's citizens. The two visions reassured Jeremiah his commission was primarily to deliver a message of judgment that had become inescapable.

b. God's Presence .

God will be present with you (v. 19).

Conclusion:

What does God want you to do today? What has been your excuse? The Lord assured Jeremiah of success in his mission. However, success did not mean people would repent. In fact, they did not turn from their sinful behavior. Jeremiah would live to see Babylon destroy Judah. Jeremiah's success lay in faithfully delivering the Lord's message and standing firm in the face of opposition.

God measures success not by how others respond but by how faithful and obedient we are in carrying out what He assigns to us. He assures us of success (as He measures success) when we depend on Him and obey Him. Such assurance gives us courage to respond to difficult assignments.

God calls and assures His messengers for His service. This is the LORD's declaration occurs in this chapter for the third time. The chapter's contents came from God. Not only does Jeremiah 1:1-19 provide a glimpse into Jeremiah's call to be a prophet, but it also previews God's call of every servant. It helps modern readers understand that God has prepared them for an assignment and will be present with them to ensure the fulfillment of the task.

What's Your Excuse?

Church Family Happenings

I'm sorry if you had to miss the activities last Sunday afternoon. The food and fellowship during lunch was good and sweet (and hard to beat) as it always is, and business meeting went well. We discussed more remodeling plans that would focus on the church basement as the next update phase. After talking with Les Huff it looks like those plans could begin soon. We extended the business meeting to allow for an approval vote before proceeding. Look for that to happen within the next couple weeks on a Sunday Morning. You've been informed!

What you really missed most was the International Mission Study. The topic was on refugees in different parts of the world, highlighting the Rohingya people group. Their story is very sad, as they have been a stateless Indo-Aryan ethnic group who predominantly follow Islam with a minority following of Hinduism. They currently reside in the Rakhine State of Myanmar (formerly Burma). Due to Myanmar law they are denied citizenship and are restricted from freedom of movement, meaning they cannot work a regular job nor can their children participate in the educational system. Theirs is a hopeless plight. The men have been slaughtered, make-shift villages have been burned out, and their young girls and women have been abused in every way possible. What a sad existence for over 700,000 people in the world today. We must pray for the Rohingya people. We must pray for missionaries who are willing work among these people, distributing food, administering health care, and sharing the Gospel. Thank You Ruth Anne Bush for leading this study and informing us more about these refugees. Great Job! If you want to know more, just google *Rohingya* and you will have access to lots of youtube videos.

Next Sunday we will begin January Bible Study – I know, I know: it's February already! Just remember that every day is a great day to study the Bible. Today we will begin preaching out of the book of Jeremiah and continue that for the next several weeks leading up to the Easter season in April. We will also have our study on Sunday afternoons as we have for the past few years. For those of you who might be new or have forgotten, we'll have a light lunch immediately following morning worship and start the Bible study immediately after we've finished eating. We'll do our best to be done before 2:15 pm (but you know that's hard to do). We should be able to complete the study with three Sunday afternoon meetings. There will be learner guides (books) available for those who want to do extra reading/activities on their own. Everyone can be reading through the book of Jeremiah. There's so much we can learn from this Old Testament prophet. There are so many circumstances in his life that relate to our lives today. He's one of my favorite prophets. I'm looking forward to the study. I hope you are, too.

Opportunities For Service

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

Sunday, February 2, 2020

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Larry McKahan, Ken Nice, George Burgess

Alternate: Don Sharp

No Evening Worship

Monday, February 3

Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

Wednesday, February 5

Prayer and Bible Study... 6:30 pm

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Dillon Burgess, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp, Gary Yarbrough

Alternate: Joe Coats

Lunch / Bible Study Noon

No Evening Worship

Wednesday, February 12

Prayer and Bible Study... 6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

February 2 — Ground Hog Day!

February 3 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

February 9 & 23 — January Bible Study @ Noon

February 12 — Lincoln's Birthday

February 14 — Valentine's Day

February 17 — President's Day

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 Night service tonight.

Cheer for the Chiefs!

Plan to attend next Sunday and stay after the morning worship service for lunch and
January Bible Study.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Last week we began a new study entitled “The New Testament You Never Knew.” It’s not too late to join. Won’t you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

Food Kitchen

February 3, 2020

5:30 pm

January Bible Study

This year our study is on the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. We’ll begin our study next Sunday afternoon with the same schedule as in the past. Light lunch at noon—Study to follow. Bring desserts.

Senior Adult Event

Immanuel Baptist Church

February 6, 2020

10:00 am

In Sympathy....

*We’d like to express Christian sympathy to the family and friends
of Sandy Wilson who passed away
January 26, 2020.*

For the Record

Attendance: January 26, 2020

Sunday School.....28
Visitors..... 1
Total.....29
Contacts Made.....0
Morning Worship..... 42
Sunday NightN/A
Children's WorshipN/A
Wednesday Night 4
Missions Study.....11

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ... \$ 994.83
Long Family – January \$ 125.00

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 ...

Alice Coats—broken wrist
Stanley Wilson and family
Nancy Baker— Bro. Allan's sister
Betty Campbell
Nellie Reynolds
Jim and Brigida Winans-Jim is home
St. James Parish
Gary Hurst—cancer

Mitch and Cindy Hoover—on Mission
Carl Conard—Jack’s cousin
Mike Green—ankle recovery
Jack and Flo Conard
Sharon Russell—George’s sister
June Fritchle
Susie Long—Alice Coat’s Sister
Swymeller’s Grandsons—kidneys
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Chuck and Gloria Stewart
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard’s sister
Mary Sharp’s brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae’s son
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson’s sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
Kevin Duty Tim Izer
Bill Dunn Shirley Wilson
Ann Riddle Kenny Duty
Keon McKahan Buddy Means
Jozy Winans Curtis Conard
Pat Means Seth Long
Bill & Juanita Brenda Burgess
Pat Puckett Sharri Duty
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today’s Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
