

February 26, 2021

Dear Friends,

I wrote this a week ago in advance of a prayer retreat which I am now on.

Speaking of prayer, a friend of mine put me onto this [daily prayer app](#). You may find it helpful as you continue your Lenten journey. You will be cued to pray in the morning, at noon, dinnertime, and evening. There are scriptures for you to read, or you may listen to someone else read them to you. It amazes me how helpful it is to be “interrupted” for just a few minutes in the day to pay attention to God. It is a day changer.

### **Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.**

This second Sunday of [Lent](#) we will hear a sermon by Pastor Matt based on Mark 8:31-38. Jesus’ disciple, Peter, couldn’t stomach Jesus’ insistence that his suffering and death were an essential part of God’s salvation plan.

Aren’t Jesus’ suffering and death just signs of his defeat? That would have been the case if resurrection had not followed. But the resurrection of Jesus Christ is God’s ‘yes’ to, or God’s vindication of, all that Jesus lived and died for. Jesus suffered and died at the hands of the rulers of his day because he extended grace to those who were unrighteous by religious standards, he challenged laws that harmed marginal people, he extended God’s welcome to all in an honour-shame, or insider-outsider, culture. He suffered and died to free humankind up from our self-reliant, unjust, achievement-oriented ideas about who the saved ones are.

“For by grace are you saved by faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9a). This, in a nutshell, is what the crucified Christ, lived, died, and was raised for: our rescue, received by faith and achieved by God through Christ. It is all gift.

Please [email the church office](#) for a Zoom link to the service.

\*Please join the Zoom meeting after 9:30 a.m. to avoid problems entering.

For this week’s scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday’s bulletin](#).

### **Missions Moment and Opportunity to Give**

This Sunday, our missions team, led by Melody Bellefeuille-Frost, will invite us to support God’s work through the Schmitz family in Nicaragua. Ryan and Sarah Schmitz and their children are long-term missionaries in Managua, Nicaragua. They work under the umbrella of the Wesleyan Church’s [Global Partners](#) with churches, schools, food centres, and teams to build relationships, assist with economic development, and share the hope of Jesus.

During the service, a member of our missions team will conduct a Zoom interview with Ryan Schmitz and we will hear the details of a special opportunity to give over the next couple of weeks to support student discipleship.

### **Sunday School for grades 4-6 at 11:15 a.m.**

Please email our [pastor of family ministries](#) to ‘send’ your child to Sunday School (grades 4-6).

### **Next Prayer Gathering: March 2 at 11:30 a.m.**

Please [email our prayer team](#) to let us know how we may uphold you and your situation in prayer.

I leave you with Steve Bell’s poetic [Birth of a Song](#) as you let go and let God birth his new life in you.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)