

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done... Matthew 6:9-13

By Daniel Mark

The primacy of the Kingdom of God is the essence of the entirety of scripture, next to the doctrines about God Himself. From start to finish the Lord Jesus made the kingdom His primary focus and ministry. Virtually all parables and teachings of our Lord dwelt on the Kingdom of God and its culture of righteousness and love and holiness. John the Baptist heralded the Christ by proclaiming the arrival of the kingdom and its King, Jesus Christ. In His inaugural message, the Lord echoed John's sermon verbatim with a call to His listeners for repentance. (Matthew 3:2; Matthew 3:17) The Old Testament prophets, while emphasizing the promises of Yahweh to Israel in the land deeded to their forefathers, the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prophetically envisioned a universal kingdom encompassing all the redeemed of the rest of humanity.

God's Kingdom, firstly, is about His love for man and His desire to reign in the sphere of humans and of a restored or renewed universe. That the old order of things is overdue for a total transformation is common to both the Old and New Testaments. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and, prominently Daniel, all looked prophetically deep into the future, and under inspiration, saw the end of time when the Messiah, the Christ of God, would take over the reins of power and establish the everlasting kingdom of peace and total righteousness! In His great Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus sums up the whole purpose of existence when He warns us against anxiety and fears concerning this life and its legitimate problems. The Son of God distilled our life by contexting it as secondary to God's Kingdom and righteousness.

When Jesus commands us to actualize the priority of the kingdom and make our temporal concerns secondary to it, the Lord isn't giving us just a neat formula for material gain and success. Far from it, God means for us to adopt His perspective on all of

Continued on page 2...

So Long, Farewell



Pastor Andy and Janice were celebrated on his last day as pastor at Windsor Chapel with a plaque and a goodbye lunch. It was a memorable time of food and fellowship. More pictures on page 5.

“Thy Kingdom come,” continued...

life and the rest of the universe. The Kingdom of God stands as the most important and significant of entities in the created cosmos, because it is the realm in which the will and purpose of God are executed to perfection. The Apostle Paul gives us the culture and ethos of the kingdom when he tells us that the kingdom isn't meat and drink but is love, joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit! (Romans 14:7)

Upon His conquest of death in the resurrection, the disciples asked the Lord if He would then reclaim the kingdom for Israel. (Acts 1:6) Jesus corrected their very narrow understanding of the kingdom by commanding them to go preach the Gospel, the Good News that people across the globe now have the privilege and possibility of eternal salvation through the Son of God and, by this means, exclusively become citizens of the kingdom.

The preaching of the Gospel is the greatest undertaking of the church, the Body of Christ, in declaring the Kingdom of God to a world in desperate need of its untold riches, and blessing and promise. As the Son of God is the King, so is His leadership first in the hearts of the redeemed and in that future physical embodiment of the kingdom. With God the spiritual always take precedence over the material so that only those who have been spiritually transformed by the grace of God via the blood and merits of our Lord will enter that kingdom of pristine righteousness and quintessential love and unimaginable beauty.

In this world for us believers, God's kingdom and all things pertaining to it must be the be-all and end-all of our existence. God's grand plan for the restoration of all things has this physical kingdom as its centerpiece, and therein will be manifested God's greatest love for us next to the crucifixion of our Lord. In the words of Andrew Peterson's marvelous song about the coming new creation and order of things, God loves us so much He yearns to dwell with us for all eternity. Jesus made the earth-shattering statement about His kingdom in answering one of the many fraudulent charges brought against Him when He said that His kingdom is not of the world. (John 18:36) The kingdom of God is utterly and completely not of this

world, and the only elements of the present age that enter that kingdom will be the saved and redeemed! (1 John 2:17)

What then is the Good News of the kingdom? Alternatively, what is the Gospel of the kingdom and why is it good? The Gospel is the divinely incredible news that God has most graciously reached out to fallen men and is redeeming as many as will be ransomed and such will live forever and ever within God's very and actual presence in a new heaven and new earth in supernatural beauty and holy bliss and ecstasy! That's good news worth all our gusto and devotion!



Happy Birthday!

Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Joan Hagestad	March 2
Marquita Kimmel	March 5
AJ Cleffie	March 6
Michael Seiboth	March 7
Thor Bernheisel	March 9
Larry Berrill	March 12
John Kimmel	March 13
Randi Herrity	March 18
Donna Westbrook	March 19
Cindy Bills	March 21
Maritzal Trahey	March 21

Elders' Corner

By Ken Bills

February has been a month of transition for Windsor Chapel, and transitions are often unsettling. Many, many thanks to all of you who helped to make the last Sunday with Pastor Andy and Janice a memorable one! We have been blessed by their ministry to us, their love for the Lord and their servant's hearts, and we will miss them. It was our pleasure and privilege to bless them as the Lord leads them to serve His Kingdom in new ways.

And what about us? Where does Windsor Chapel go from here? The future is not given to us to see. I am reminded of Jesus calling the first disciples: *"And [Jesus] said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him."* (Matthew 4:19-20) The first disciples didn't know where they were going, but they knew who would be going with them. Like those disciples, our calling is to follow our Lord wherever He leads us, and we can be confident that He is with us.

And while we seek to follow our Master, we can be the church. We can follow the example of early believers in Acts 2 who were learning for the first time what their life together would be when Jesus no longer walked with them bodily: *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."* Even without a new pastor, we can devote ourselves to the study of God's Word, to praising God for His goodness with glad and generous hearts (Acts 2:47), and to prayer. This month will provide many opportunities for us to be the church together.

We can be a praying church. As elders we are spending regular times in extended prayer seeking the Lord's blessing, guidance and wisdom. Every Wednesday night, some will be

gathering at the church to pray—all are invited to come as the Lord leads. And each of us can pray in our own homes and quiet times. We can be a learning church. We may not have senior pastor, but each of us has the Bible to read and study. On Sunday mornings, we will be hearing from a variety of Godly and wise servants of the Lord who have been gracious enough to agree to come and preach. Each Sunday, the Adult 11th Hour Class will be meeting to study Romans. Women can be part of Perisseia on Thursday nights as they seek to apply God's truth to their lives (see Cindy Bills).

We can be a serving church. Many of us will be serving our neighbors and the Lord's love by assisting with the Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks to all who have volunteered! And we also have room for more helpers. Further, as a church, we have many opportunities for any who want to serve the Body, and now more than ever, each of us is needed. If you wonder how you might serve at Windsor Chapel, please speak to one of us elders. There is a place for you!

We can be a worshipping church. As we gather each Sunday morning, we can corporately give praise, thanksgiving and worship to the King of Kings. On Good Friday, we will have a worship service at 7:00 PM, to worship and wonder at the miracle of a God who loved us enough to die for us. On Easter, we can together celebrate the victory of the Risen Lord, who has conquered.

We can be a loving church. *"Love one another, just as I have loved you,"* said Jesus to his disciples. (John 13:34) There is no more infallible sign of the presence of the Lord and the true church than the love of his people for one another. *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* (John 13:35) By coming together in unity, humility and love, we can, even in this time of transition, fulfill the Lord's purposes for us and be a witness to the world.



Mark Your Calendars for Our Easter Egg Hunt!

Easter is early this year, and so is Windsor Chapel’s exciting Easter Egg Hunt! Be sure to join us for our annual Egg Hunt, which will be held on Sunday, March 24, at 3:00 pm. Don’t forget to invite your family, friends and neighbors! There will be plenty of fun and special treats for all children ages 2 – 9, and everything is free! The rain date is Saturday, March 30, at 3:00 pm. If you are interested in helping in this rewarding outreach, please speak with Ed MacQueen on Sunday, or contact him by phone at 609-751-6584 or by email at e.macqueen1@comcast.net.

A Little Time Is a Big Help!

Have you been looking for an opportunity to serve that will fit your busy schedule? A few hours of your time will be a tremendous help as we plan for Windsor Chapel’s Easter Egg Hunt. It is one of our most important outreaches of the year and always very well attended. There are many opportunities to assist before or during the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 24, or on the rain date Saturday, March 30. Please look over the list of responsibilities and positions available as we prepare for the big day:

Prior to Event

Candy Bag Preparation (Sun., 3/10 at 4 PM at Windsor Chapel)
Set up Egg Hunt Areas (Sat., 3/23 at 10 AM)

Day of Event (Starting 1PM)

Set up Tables, Chairs Outside
Distribute Eggs in Field

Volunteer Positions

Crafts: support team
Decorations and Photo Booth: 1-2 people needed
Candy Exchange Table: Team lead and support team
Face Painting: support team
Water Station: 1 person needed
Trash: 1 Person Needed
Welcome Table: support team

If you wish to serve in this rewarding ministry, please speak with Ed MacQueen in person on Sunday, or contact Ed by email at e.macqueen1@comcast.net or by phone at 609-751-6584.



Financial Update

(Through January 31, 2024)

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$10,117	\$200,780
Expense	\$19,316	\$200,855

Windsor Chapel has sent \$1,713 to our missionary partners this year. That is 17% of your giving!

Daylight Savings Time returns on Sunday, March 10. It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



THE CHAPEL CHALLENGE

A Newsletter from Windsor Chapel



*The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord
make His face shine upon you And be
gracious to you; The Lord lift up His
countenance upon you,
And give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26*



Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

March: The Lion and the Lamb

We all know the old adage: *“March—In like a lion, out like a lamb.”* Or, sometimes, *vice versa*. And while the weather of March can make for some interesting conversations, I think the echoes of Biblical truth in the adage are far more significant.

The weather adage is a way to emphasize the drastic change that March brings. Winter to spring; powerful to mild. The lion and lamb metaphors in the Bible refer to the two natures of Christ that are both eternal and simultaneous. He is the Lion of Judah. The I AM. He is also the Lamb of God, meek and lowly, sacrificed for the sins of the world. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He was, is, and will always be both the Lion and the Lamb.

In our fallen world and in our minds, lions and lambs do not go together. They are entirely incompatible. Lions eat lambs. Lambs are terrified of lions. Christ as both Lion and Lamb is a sign to us that He has, inconceivably, done the impossible! The Creator of the world is also its Redeemer. The lion and lamb metaphor in the Bible enables us to imagine and visualize the miracle. Before the fall, it is conceivable (depending upon your theology) that there were no predatory relationships among the newly created animals. But when Adam and Eve made their fateful choice, the entire creation fell with them. God clothed them with the skins of animals who were sacrificed to provide Adam and Eve with material protection. And all heaven wept.

The fall has generated a dog-eat-dog world of fear and shame. Whatever your position on evolution, survival of the fittest has become all too commonplace in our world. The strong use and abuse the weak for their own benefit. The rich become richer while the poor become poorer. Lions eat lambs.

But, God. Jesus as Lion is not merely the King of the jungle; He is King of all creation, all the universe. And as Lamb, He *“emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant.... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* (Philippians 2:7-8) Jesus as the perfect Lamb became the fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrificial system for sin, dying once and for all.

The weather is not the most remarkable feature of March. We are in the season of Lent, preparing to commemorate the death of the Lamb of God and celebrate the resurrection of the Lion of Judah. This is an ideal time to ponder with gratitude our Lord, the Lion and the Lamb. It is also a good time to turn our face in the same direction, to use whatever power the Lion gives us to serve Him: *“Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.”* (Luke 10:3) As we do so, may we look for the day when lions and lambs will dwell in peace (Isaiah 65:25)

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557) or cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue....

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

Susan Seiboth at
susan@quiltingsquare.com

Dorothy Soi at
dsoi@windsorchapel.org
Chapel Office (609) 799-2559
www.windsorchapel.org