

Blest Be the Tie That Binds: Part 2

This week I share some thoughts on the second verse of the hymn.

Before our Father's throne / We pour our ardent prayers, /

In Meeting the Messiah, Donald Shelby writes, “Our inner life cries out for relief and renewal. We all need stamina and resilience. What frustrates us and brings us to the breaking point is not external stress—although enough is enough—but internal pressures and spiritual emptiness. If we were more certain of our inner power, we would not be so tense and driven, so overwhelmed and fragmented” (p.41). Shelby is describing the need for *ardent* prayers—prayers that are “passionate, zealous, glowing or burning.” That is why prayer is a central and essential part of our worship of God, our gathering before our Father’s throne. Later in his chapter “When We Pray,” Shelby reminds us that **prayer is about clarification**. It is not telling God what he already knows and understands, but instead clarifying what we don’t understand about ourselves. In our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, prayer is then “*finding out where are, why we hurt, what we need, what we must do*” (p.42).

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, / Our comforts and our cares.

We tend to think that our struggles are ours to bear alone—that no one else is going through what we are feeling or thinking. If we take a good look around us here at LLCUMC, we would realize that we are not alone. We share hurts, pains, griefs, worry, pandemic fatigue, and more. Just knowing that we are not alone is, strangely enough, somewhat comforting. We express our shared emotions and thoughts in a variety of ways, but one that is prominent is intercessory prayers—those that lift up on behalf of other individuals rather than ourselves. This is a description of the second point Shelby makes: that **prayer is about expectation**. A positive expectation that God is and will continue to be with those we lift up should be our attitude as we go to God with all our fears, hopes, comforts and cares. Our shared faith/trust in the Jesus Christ, the One who God gave us and who reconciles the world to God, expects results in God’s sense of timing, not a timetable of our making. Our faith also provides the seedbed for a hope that ties us together through thick or thin—the topic of the third verse of the hymn that I will address next week.

Yours in Christ our Lord,

Pastor Tom





On Going: Les Case, Wade Davis, Roger Grable, Richard Fuerst, Winnie Fuerst, Harvey Geary, Michael Hatfield, Linda Koleiny, Shane Miley, Kirk Morehead, Nancy Rowe, all the families who have lost loved ones or are sick from the Covid Virus

Depression and Mental Health: Robby Sherrod

Strength and Healing: Rick Collier, Kaleb Lamb, Mike McMillin, Rev. John Morrison, DJ Petty, Sophia, Paula Schmedding, Andrew White

Missions: Kenyan G-Marc Project, Chics for Chicks, Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Harvester's Food Bank, Lazarus Ministries, Tarsney Lake Families, Congregation de Mellier, Heart and Soul Children's Learning Center

Please contact the office to update or add prayer requests



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, WILL BE A SPECIAL DAY!

LLLCUMC is the chartering organization for **Boy Scout Troop 251**, and has been for many years. Our church building and grounds have benefitted from Eagle Scout projects over those years. On Sunday, February 7, the troop will be with us in our **8:00 a.m.** worship service, sharing with us their accomplishments over the past year, and participating in the service. Since this is the first Sunday of the month, we will be observing the sacrament of Holy Communion only at the 10:00 service.

In addition to the sacrament, we will be using our new equipment at the 10:00 service on February 7 and migrate our live stream (online) worship service from Facebook Live® to our YouTube® channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyEeRhrXoEs>). We still need volunteers to expand our media team during the 10:00 service in order to produce a quality service for those who will be tuning in from all sorts of places, near and far. Additional help will also allow us to once again have the elements of worship projected onto the screens during worship.



RESTART OF ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL!!

You are invited to a genesis of our adult Sunday school class on **February 7** at 9:00 on Sunday mornings! We will be using the **NOOMA Videos Series** by Rob Bell (feel free to Google him). There will be 24 sessions in this video series. A discussion off the video will then follow that will be facilitated by Pastor Tom. The video is short (10-15 min.) and will give us food for thought as Rob shares elements and applications of biblical truth and Christ-like living to our relationship with God through Christ our Lord in his unique style of presentation. The first video is titled “Rain” where he talks about the storms of life.

Rob is a well known pastor and author of ten books, including the New York Times bestsellers “What We Talk About When We Talk About God”, “The Zimzum of Love”, “Love Wins”, and “What Is the Bible?” His podcast, called the RobCast, was named by iTunes Best of 2015. He’s been profiled in the New Yorker and Time Magazine named him one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2011.

The title of each week’s video will be in this newsletter prior to each Sunday and sent to specific persons who attend the class via email. No purchase of a book is necessary; just come and share in the fellowship between the two services. Coffee will be available on that Sunday. Should we outgrow the large classroom, we will move to the sanctuary in order to maintain physical distancing.



Thank you so much to our wonderful church family. We do appreciate the prayers, calls, texts and cards in the passing of Dean's sister.

We are so blessed,

Dean & Kim Rohr

January/February 2021

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 24 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am | 25 | 26 Church Council Meeting 7:00 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Services 8 & 10:00 Boy Scout Sunday | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am | | | | | | |