

Another Word March 23, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Believe it or not, I was sitting here this morning trying to remember when spring will begin. Imagine my surprise to discover that it officially started last Saturday. Looking around I now see all the signs; maple trees starting to bud, weeds popping through every crack in the sidewalk, birds building nests, and clumps of tall grass just itching to be mowed. So, put away the snow shovels, look around, and take in God's magnificent handy work.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday. If you can, try to invite a friend or neighbor to come and worship as Holy Week begins. Then on April 1st, we will have our Maundy Thursday Service, beginning at 7 pm.

Scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29, Mark 11: 1-11, "A Sermon without words," and the Crown of Thorns reading is Mark 15: 1-15. Ellie Wells is our Elder.

Please continue to offer prayers for the Wells, Kirby, and Bateson families, as well as for Dick Baum who is having more tests run.

Let us be in prayer together.

Oh Holy Father, to you we raise our voices in praise. The love and dedication you lavish on us is so much more than we deserve, but we welcome and accept it gladly. When we call out to you, you listen and answer our needs. By following your word, we walk with your truth and justice. We hold up to you all who are suffering from the loss of a loved one or the loss of health. Please guide them, comfort them, and give

them peace. May we all feel your presence, embrace your love, and then share your gift with our neighbors. We hold these words high as a symbol of our love to you; in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Have you ever noticed; a song comes on the radio or you hear it in a store. You haven't heard it for at least 30 years, but you instantly begin to sing along and remember almost every word? That is the power of music.

Music influences us, helps us relive a specific memory or takes us to a specific time. A song can boost our mood, or even remind us of long forgotten events surrounding our lives.

It appears that songs are nearly impossible to forget, so it is wise that we take care to be selective in the songs we listen to and sing. (I don't know about you, but there are a few songs and singers I wish I could forget. "The Chicken Dance" comes to mind.

While we were rehearsing songs and hymns for our upcoming services, it became very apparent that there is joy that comes from singing. There is an uplifting sense of love and that music and singing is a great gift from God. Psalm 147 verse 1 states, "How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him."

Throughout the Scriptures God's people are encouraged to lift their voices in songs of praise to Him. "Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things!" (Isaiah 12:5) "Worship the Lord with gladness; come

before Him with joyful songs.” (Psalm 100:2) And not only the singer’s heart becomes uplifted, but those who hear the songs become inspired and uplifted also.

As I said earlier, some songs are nearly impossible to forget, so it is wise to be selective about what we listen to and sing. Many songs are just for fun, (ie: “The One Eyed One Horned Flying Purple People Eater”) and that’s ok, but the benefits of songs about God and Jesus encourage us and help build our faith.

The songs we know, listen to, and sing are an indicator as to what state our heart is in. (The “Purple People Eater” excluded.) What we sing ultimately influences who we are and what we believe. My advice? Choose wisely, and sing from the heart, to God.

In His Peace,

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